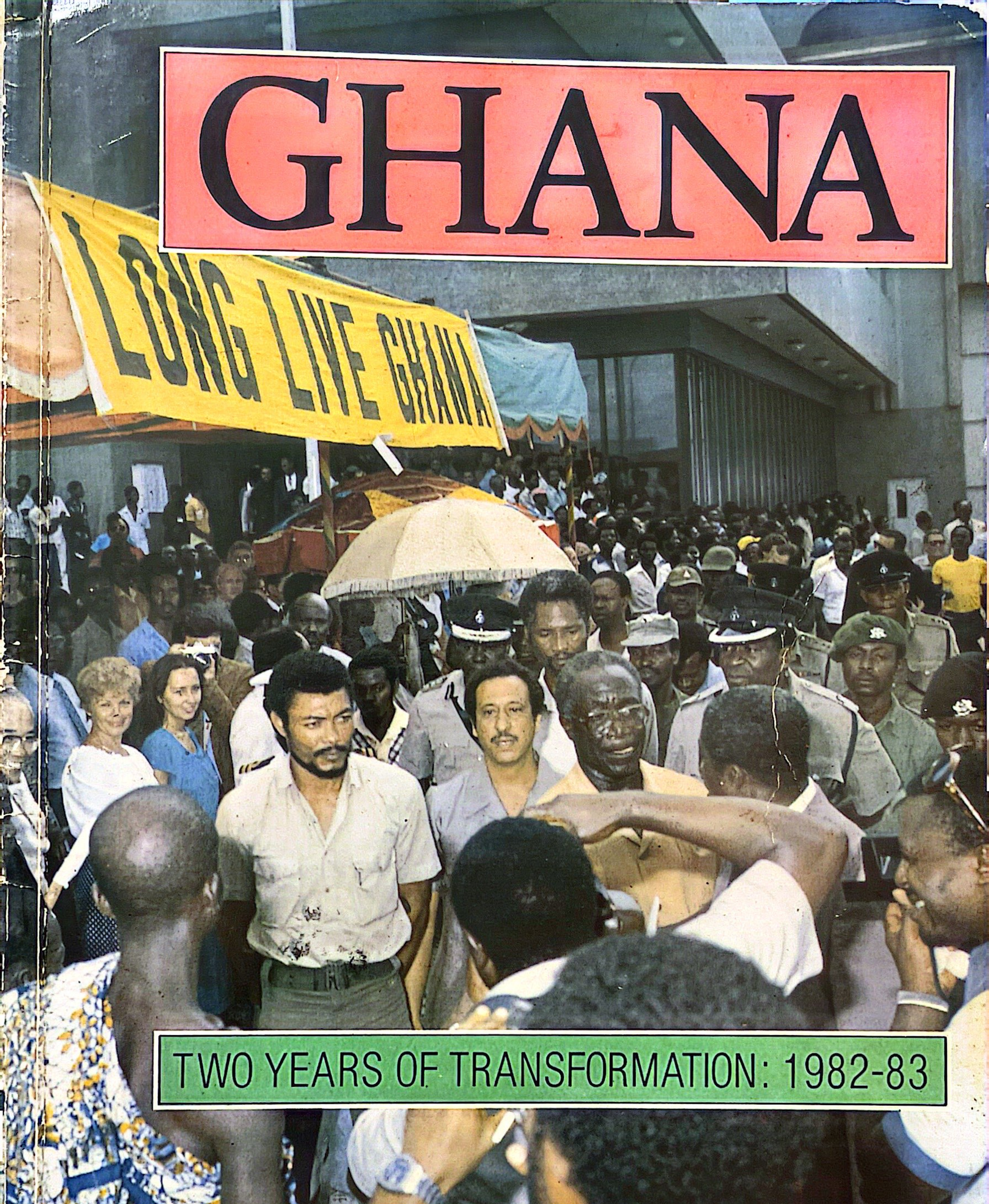
GHANA



TWO YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION: 1982-83

★★★

Flt.-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings,
Leader of the December 31 Revolution

"The medicine is bitter, but it is necessary."

★ ★ ★

"The PNDC is determined not only to punish those who have looted the nation's coffers, but also to make the necessary institutional changes that would prevent a recurrence of these lapses."

★ ★ ★

"We must not, we cannot, ignore the fact that the Revolution has to accommodate a range of views and opinions."

★ ★ ★

"In the reconstruction of our shattered economy, every assistance from friends is welcome. Genuine foreign investors have nothing to fear from this Revolution of ours because it is honest, it has integrity and loathes exploitation."

★ ★ ★

"Production and efficiency must be our watchwords. Populist nonsense must give way to scientific sense, whether popular or unpopular. Many of us have spent too much time worrying about who owns what, but there can be no ownership without production first."

★ ★ ★

"The revolutionary process in which we are now involved is like planting a tree. Without faith in the future, nobody plants a tree or undertakes a revolution."

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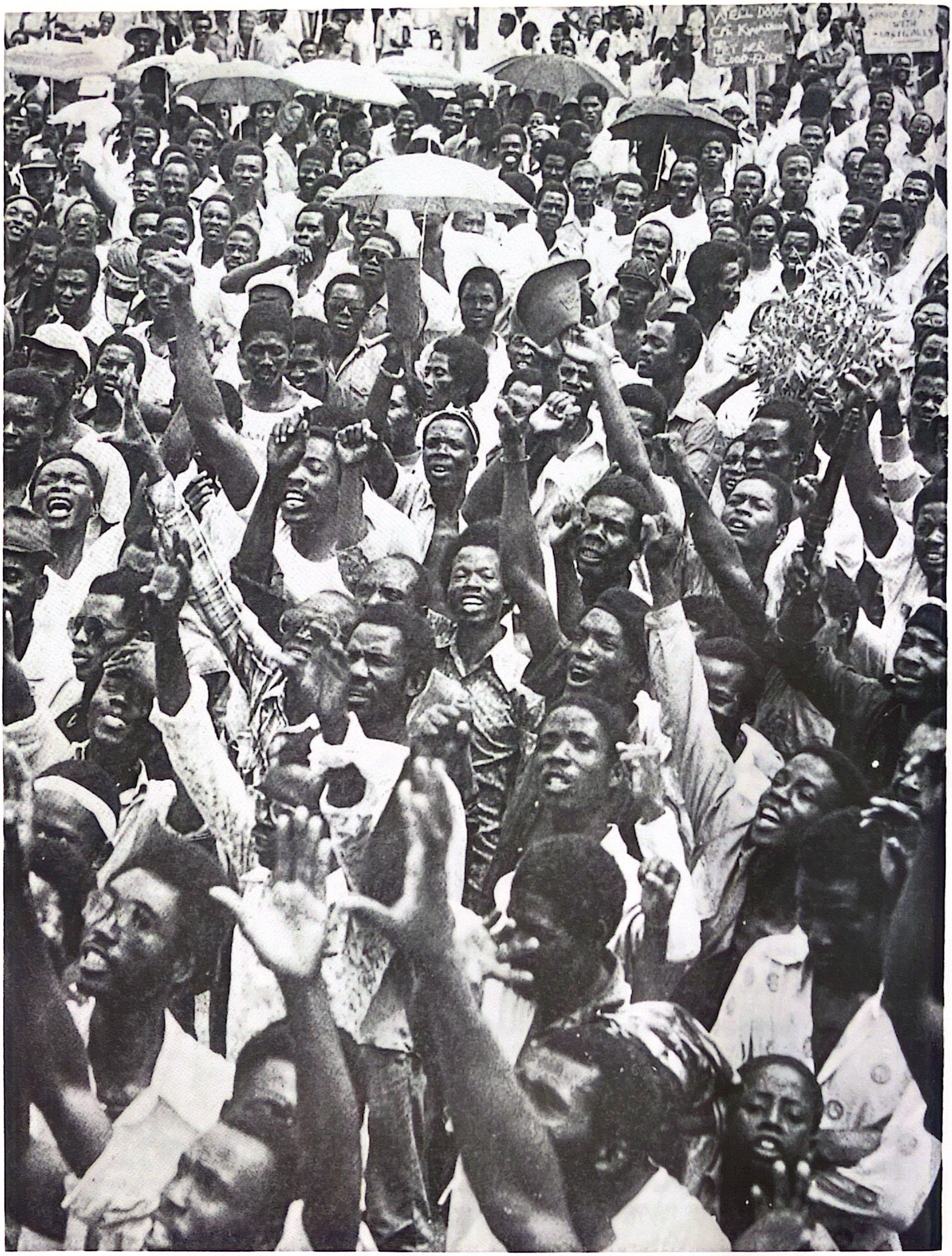


The dawn of a new era and a new hope for Ghana — crowds in Accra hail the Revolution

INTRODUCTION

The history of every nation is often a cycle of events and circumstances marked by ups and downs. Within each cycle, a short or long period of progress and well-being is almost invariably followed by a period of gradual decline which continues until the nation either disintegrates or a new cycle begins. Ghana's relatively short history of Independence tends to confirm this general observation.

The purpose of this book is to review two momentous and extraordinary years in the country's post-Independence history: momentous because they marked a sudden and dramatic upturn at a critical time when decline had almost reached the point of no return; extraordinary because the long and dark night of decline was so shrouded in mist that the dawn of a new day was not immediately apparent. Indeed, it took the better part of two years for the sun to begin to break through at long last — the first two years of an era devoted to the rebirth and the redemption of the nation.

Ghana was in the forefront of the struggle for African liberation: Leaders of the first independent states of West Africa — Dr. Kwame Nkrumah (centre), President Sekou Toure of Guinea (left) and President W.V.S. Tubman of Liberia (right) — at a conference held to discuss the future of the continent

Ghana's birth as an independent state was a difficult one, preceded as it was by years of struggle and pain. However, the immediate post-independence period witnessed rapid growth and development leading to the establishment of the First Republic.

Shortly afterwards, the First Republic achieved prominence on the African scene, stood in the forefront of the liberation movement and became an example which the newly independent African states strove to emulate. At home, industrialisation began to make rapid progress as the country's infrastructure was being modernised and expanded and as vast development schemes were being undertaken.

Then, after a promising but relatively short spell of ascent towards the better future visualised by the prophets of the liberation movement, decline set in. Greed, corruption, incompetence, divisiveness and perhaps indifference began to undermine the body politic and to affect society as a whole.

These problems were compounded by rapidly deteriorating terms of trade, appalling waste in the management of the economy and world recession. Indeed, the rapid increase in oil prices of the early 1970s and the soaring cost of imported agricultural inputs, raw materials for industry and manufactured goods has been accompanied by repeated drops in the world price of cocoa and other primary products exported by Ghana. This, together with a series of poor harvests largely due to unfavourable weather further contributed to the virtual collapse of the economy and, with it, of the social and political order. Thus, the rebirth of the nation was bound to prove more difficult than its birth as an independent state; and the task of those who on December 31, 1981 undertook to attempt this operation against overwhelming odds was also bound to be longer, more painstaking and fraught with greater dangers. Nor could its success be expected to be so clearly apparent in the short run.

It is only now, after an intensive two-year struggle that the significance of the December 31, 1981, Revolution can be seen in its true perspective and clearly emerges as an upturn in Ghana's history.

For these problems, corrective measures, often of a bitter kind, had to be intensively administered.

The first task was to restore the moral fibre of society and eradicate all forms of social injustice and deprivation. This involved setting up public tribunals and an elaborate investigating and vetting structure to weed out the most pernicious elements of society while providing for their future redemption and ensuring that the innocent are not victimised. The next step in this direction was to prevent recurrence of these social injustices; hence the establihsment of the PDCs and WDCs who were also to serve the more important function of ensuring the wider participation of the masses in the task of rehabilitating the country and democratising its institutions.

However, the establishment and organisation of these bodies was only part of the wider task of mobilising and motivating the whole nation for reconstruction and development. At the same time a gigantic task of national unification and political consolidation had to be undertaken. Having thus laid the moral, social and political foundations for economic

The People's and Workers' Defence Committees have been instrumental in re-awakening the spirit of voluntary work

recovery the government is now in a position to launch a comprehensive programme designed to rehabilitate both the country's assets and its means of production with a view to achieving the well-being of all its citizens within the framework of a just society.

Today, as a reborn country enters the third year of its life, the results of the programmes initiated over a period of two years are becoming apparent and even universally acknowledged. At the end of November 1983, donor countries and institutions which constitute the Consultative Group for Ghana met for the first time after an interval of 13 years to pledge $600 million to the implementation of Ghana's economic recovery programme over a period of three years. A communique issued by the conference held in Paris under the auspices of the World Bank noted with "satisfaction the courageous and far-reaching steps taken by the government to reverse the economic deterioration which had persisted over a decade".

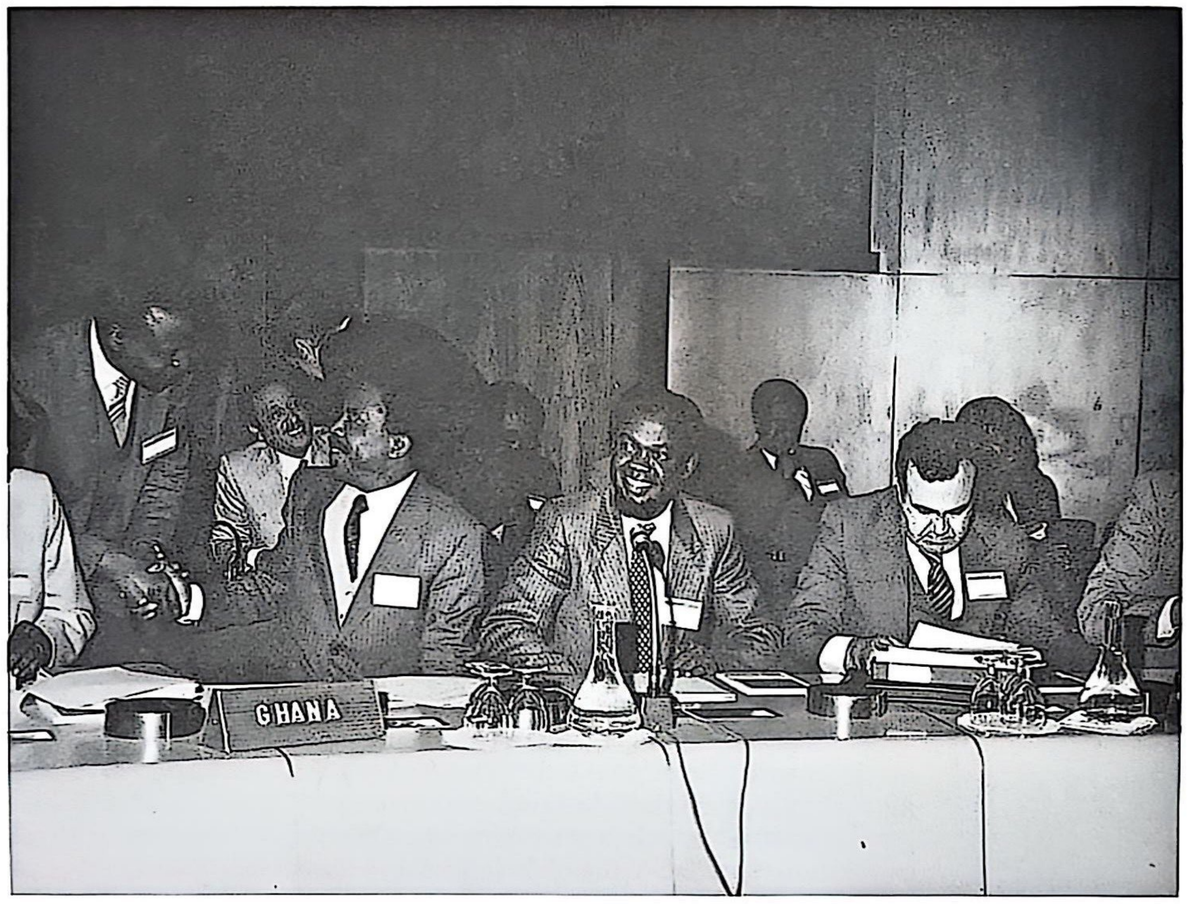
The recognition of Ghana's rehabilitation efforts shown by foreign countries and international institutions also takes into account, no doubt, the foreign policy pursued by the government since December 31, 1981 — a policy marked by relentless efforts to maintain good relations with all countries irrespective of their ideological and economic persuasion.

To sum up, the Ghana of today is a vastly different country from what it was on December 31, 1981. The people's power, as seen in their total involvement in the decision making process affecting them, is a reality. So is the people's total commitment to raising their living standards through active participation in self-help projects. In short, the structures that militated against our progress and development have been restructured and a total transformation of our attitudes and life-styles has taken place.

The people are being mobilised to undertake various productive ventures. They are being encouraged to rely more and more on themselves, on their initiative, and less on imports. Decisive measures taken by the government have prepared the ground for a take-off to prosperity.

Two years after the December 31 Revolution, the people can look forward to the future because the government has laid solid foundations for the growth of the economy and progress in all fields; because they know that as a result of the policies initiated on that fateful day of December 31, 1981, and vigorously pursued since then, they are now a step nearer to the realisation of their aspirations — more food, better housing, factories working at full capacity, effective transport and communications, more goods on the shelves and in the markets, improved medical facilities and a system of education suited to their needs.

Members of the Consultative Group of donor countries and organisations meet in Paris to review Ghana's progress since December 1981 and plan foreign assistance for the country's Economic Recovery Programme



MOBILISING THE PEOPLE

In fulfilment of the Government's National Economic Recovery Plan designating its second year in office as "a year of mobilisation of all national resources for reconstruction and development; a year in which the necessary foundations must be laid for the modernisation of the nation and for economic independence", a National Mobilisation Programme was introduced early in 1983.

The Programme was designed to deal with the problems of hunger, disease, shelter and clothing by mobilising all human and material resources in an all-out drive to create a self-reliant economy in which the interests of the people are uppermost, build an integrated industrial base and institutionalise an equitable and just system of distribution. It aimed in particular at ensuring self-sufficiency in agricultural production for domestic consumption and industrial use so as to break, as much as practicable, dependence on imports.

It also aimed at:

- initiating a rapid development of the rural areas to remove the gross disparities between towns and villages;
- helping solve the problems of unemployment and underemployment, as well as the serious crisis occasioned by the influx of over one million returness from Nigeria.

The Programme provided for the mobilisation of all categories of people, such as students, workers, farmers, and professional men and women, as well as of all available resources, into a national service scheme. To carry it

The community farm concept has been enthusiastically embraced by most Ghanaians

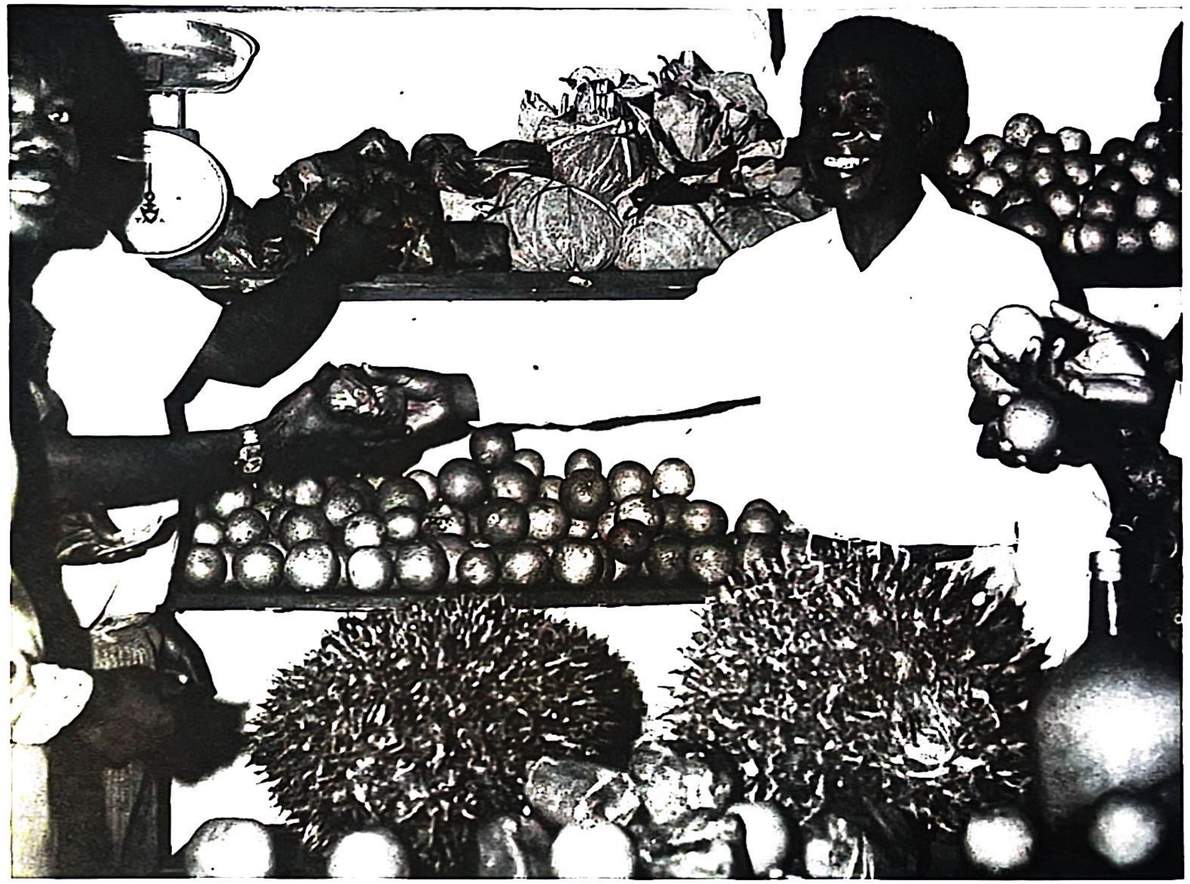
PNDC Member Ebo Tawiah addressing a public education rally

out, a National Mobilisation Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Leader of the Revolution. Under the scheme:

- ★ farmers are assisted to maintain and expand their holdings with improved seeds and more productive agricultural practices;
- ★ every village, hamlet and town is required to cultivate a community farm of not less than 25 acres with the people devoting at least one day a week to work on it;
- ★ every district is required to develop a 160-acre demonstration farm in which agricultural extension officers are expected to demonstrate modern farming techniques, including the use of high-yielding seeds;
- ★ schools, colleges and universities are encouraged to grow their own food to supplement supplies purchased with government subsidies;
- ★ all units of the armed forces, the police and the prison services are expected to establish farms or expand existing ones.

The Programme lays equal emphasis on support services for agriculture such as energy development, transportation, health and sanitation, the construction of roads and bridges, housing, education, water and sewerage, cottage industries, the mobilisation of local financial resources and the promotion of healthy entertainment and culture. These areas are given due attention as they are regarded as necessary for the effective implementation of the programme to increase food production.

The Programme also called on local Defence Committees to organise farmers into producer and marketing cooperatives with the latter establishing



People's Shops. Other occupational groups within the community, such as artisans, fitters, blacksmiths, masons, carpenters and craftsmen of all trades can be mobilised under the scheme to undertake specialised projects for the community.

At the same time, industrial establishments using agricultural raw materials were required either to produce these directly, themselves, or indirectly by supporting farmers to produce the required raw materials.

Under the National Service Scheme, all persons between the ages of 18 and 40, whether employed in the public or private sectors, or unemployed, can be called upon at any time deemed necessary by the Government, to render service to the nation for two years, in any capacity.

Some of Ghana's rehabilitation achievements since the beginning of 1983, including the increases recorded in food production (*see the chapter on agriculture, page 33*) can be partly attributed to the National Mobilisation Programme. More importantly, perhaps, the Programme has already created a greater sense of participation on the part of the broad masses of the people in the task of national rehabilitation and has contributed to the development of a new social consciousness and of a new approach to the solution of vital problems. As such, it can be expected to play an important part in the implementation of the National Economic Recovery Plan (1984-1986) on which the nation relies as a step toward the fulfilment of its long-frustrated aspirations.

Co-operative People's Shops have now been established throughout the country

Resettling the Returnees

Since the return of some 1.2 million Ghanaians deported from Nigeria in 1983, the Government has spared no efforts to assist them and facilitate their resettlement in their own country.

As soon as the news of the mass deportation reached Ghana, the Government set up a National Co-ordinating Committee to initiate medium- and long-term plans for the rehabilitation and re-integration of the returnees. Chaired by the PNDC Co-ordinating Secretary, Mr. P.V. Obeng, its members included representatives of all the government departments and agencies concerned, as well as the UNDP resident representative in Ghana, in his role as co-ordinator of the international relief efforts.

Some of the one million Ghanaians ordered to leave Nigeria arrive at Tema

Largely as a result of the Committee's efforts, the skilled returnees have now been generally redeployed by their former employers while a great number of those who had no special skills and did menial jobs in Nigeria have been assisted to engage in agriculture as a livelihood.

The Government's appeal to the returnees to settle on the land has been favourably received by them and it is estimated that 65 per cent have taken well to agriculture and are now safely on the road to economic independence. With the assistance of organisations set up to help them, they quickly gained access to fallow lands belonging to quasi-government bodies, such as the Ghana Food Production Corporation and the Ghana National Reconstruction Corporation.

Those who went wholeheartedly into agriculture have already reaped the fruits of their labour. In addition to cultivating private farms, most of the returnees have also clubbed together to establish community farms. Despite the failure of the rains they have harvested enough maize to support themselves and their dependents.

A sizeable proportion of the returnees are now engaged in cottage industries, such as brick and tile making, carpentry, charcoal burning and basket weaving, with some having received assistance to establish themselves.

The cultivation of vegetables and cereals on irrigated land at Weija. Many of the returnees from Nigeria are being encouraged to engage in agriculture

THE NEW ORGANS OF THE REVOLUTION

The Revolution of December 31, 1981, arose largely from the resolution of the people of Ghana to put an end to the unbearable hardships, exploitation and oppression to which they had been subjected for too long by a small class of corrupt and unscrupulous officials, as well as local and foreign businessmen; break away from the shackles of neo-colonialism and utter dependence on foreign interests; achieve self-sufficiency and self-dependency with freedom and justice for all; and, in brief, become the masters of their own destiny and the builders of a better future for themselves and their descendants.

Conscious of the great potential wealth of their country in terms of natural and human resources, the broad masses realised that the institutions basically inherited from the colonial period had failed to fulfil their aspirations.

It is against this background that a number of institutions have been established as organs of the December 31 Revolution. They are the People's Defence Committees, Workers Defence Committees, National Investigations Committee, Citizens Vetting Committee and the Confiscated Assets Committee. The other organs are the Office of the Special Public Prosecutor, the Board of Public Tribunals and the PNDC Information Centre.

The National Investigations Committee

One of the main objectives of the December 31 Revolution was to put an end to the long history of corruption, fraud and mismanagement which had undermined the moral values of the nation and brought the economy to the brink of collapse. Immediately after the Revolution it, therefore, became necessary for the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) Government to set up a special body competent to investigate allegations of criminal conduct on the part of public officers of the previous regimes, as well as to initiate investigations into acts of omissions committed by persons to the detriment of the economy and the interest and welfare of the sovereign people of Ghana.

Thus, under PNDC Law No.2, passed on the second day of the Revolution, a National Investigations Committee was established on January 2, 1982 and began to function nine days later. In fulfilment of its functions the Committee investigates allegations brought to its attention and submits the evidence to the Government. But it is not part of the Committee's duties to draw conclusions as to the guilt or innocence of the parties concerned. However, evidence relating to the violation of the country's statutes and laws is referred to the Office of the Special Public Prosecutor for further action.

Nonetheless, section 8 of the PNDC Law No.2 provides that a person under investigation by the Committee who wishes to admit the commission of irregularities in relation to the matter under investigation, or any other matter may offer reparations to the state in respect of such irregularities.

When a person under investigation avails himself or herself of this provision, the Committee prepares a report to this effect and submits it to the Government for consideration. If the Government accepts the report and the reparation is paid, this disposes of the matter and no judicial or disciplinary action may then be taken against the person concerned in respect of the same matter.

Workers' rallies in Accra and around the country have attracted massive and enthusiastic participation

Between January 1982 and November 1983, investigations conducted by the Committee have resulted in over ₵5 million being offered in reparation to the state.

In the performance of its duties, the Committee does not operate in isolation. It seeks and receives co-operation from the other organs of the Revolution.

The Citizens' Vetting Committee

An important landmark of the first two years of the PNDC Government was the establishment of the Citizens' Vetting Committee with powers to investigate:

(a) persons whose life style and personal expenditure substantially exceed their known or declared incomes;
(b) persons whose bank balances in credit exceed the limits specified by the Government; and
(c) related matters.

The Committee, consisting of 11 members, including a Chairman, was established under The Citizens' Vetting Committee Law, 1982 — the first law passed by the PNDC Government after the Revolution — and began its work in February 1982. Since its inception it has investigated most categories of possible or likely offenders, including civil and public servants of all ranks, contractors, managers, clearing agents, traders and businessmen.

The main achievement of the exercise was to bring tax awareness and civic responsibility to the Ghanaian public through the exposure of tax evaders

The Leader of the Revolution, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, extending a loving embrace to the rising generation. The new organs of the revolution seek to create a new and healthier society for our children

Secondly, the CVC substantially raised the level of revenue from direct taxation by extending tax collection both in width (additional taxpayers) and in depth (additional income from existing tax payers). In addition to collecting nearly ₵166.3 million, out of assessments totalling over ₵306 million imposed on vettees up to the end of October 1983, the Committee made it possible for the Central Revenue Department to increase the volume of its collections appreciably.

Thirdly, the CVC established parity between employees whose taxes are deducted at source and the successful self-employed and companies who hitherto paid little or virtually no tax at all. In this connection, in his *Budget Statement and Outline of Economic Policy* for 1983, the Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, noted that the self-employed now contributed ₵307 million to the revenue by way of direct taxes, as against ₵52.3 million in 1980 and ₵127.9 million in 1981, amounting to an increase of nearly 500 per cent in two years.

Fourthly, by exposing supposedly 'hard working', 'successful', and wealthy Ghanaians as tax dodgers and evaders, the CVC has provided a deterrent against tax evasion and has also been instrumental in inducing more businessmen to keep proper records and books of accounts and to pay appropriate taxes.

Fifthly, the CVC has exposed the weakness of the traditional tax collection structure, laws and procedures and, in the light of its experience, it is making recommendations intended to improve the situation.

The Public Tribunals

The legal system inherited by the PNDC had failed in many respects to achieve the aims and objectives of a valid judicial order. Instead, it contributed to indiscipline and lawlessness and postulated a legal order which benefited the corrupt, the cheats and the parasites who were milking the country's resources. As a result of their social status, connections and class interests, the members of the judiciary created two standards in the administration of justice — one for the poor and one for the rich.

To fulfil the aims of the Revolution, restore the moral fibre of society, and thus serve the intersts of ordinary Ghanaians, a new instrument of justice had, therefore, to be created. This new instrument — the Public Tribunals — was established under PNDC Law 24, passed in August 1982.

Since the judiciary is part of the machinery through which political power is exercised, a people's government had to ensure the participation of the people in the judicial process. As a result, workers, farmers, soldiers, policemen, and people from all walks of life and disciplines were appointed to serve as members of the Public Tribunals Board and of the Tribunals themselves, thus making a reality of the principles of participatory democracy and ensuring that the ordinary citizens of the country are given a greater opportunity of participating directly in the administration of justice.

The Public Tribunals Board: In keeping with the provisions of the law, a fifteen-member Board was appointed to administer the Public Tribunals throughout the country and also to select the persons to be appointed to sit as members of the Public Tribunals. Initially, Members of the Board were eligible to sit as Members of the Tribunals. The fears, expressed in some quarters, that the Board would be controlled by the PNDC, proved totally unjustified as the Tribunals have in fact been administered exclusively by the Board without any interference on the part of the Government. The composition of the Tribunals, including the Price Control Tribunals, the Regional Tribunals and the National Tribunal, has also been the sole responsibility of the Board.

Price Control Tribunals: These were set up to check the high prices of goods to ensure that they are within the reach of ordinary people. The purpose was not to penalise poor retailers or petty traders, but to check the activities of the big operators who had used various tactics to manipulate prices at the expense of the consumers.

At the time of writing, three Price Control Tribunals function in Accra.

Regional Tribunals: These were established early in 1983 and by the end of the year Tribunals had been set up in five of Ghana's ten Regions. Arrangements have been made for the Upper East Tribunal to hear also substantive criminal cases in the Northern and Upper West Regions while the Northern Regional Tribunal sits also in the Upper East and Upper West Regions to hear rent, price control and custom and excise cases.

Preparations are now underway to set up Tribunals in two other Regions as well as one at Tema Harbour. The Board is also planning to set up District and Community Tribunals.

Within a year of their establishment, the Public Tribunals had heard over 1,000 cases ranging from idleness to treason and murder.

The Special Public Prosecutor: Under PNDC Law 24, all cases prosecuted before the Public Tribunals are handled by the Office of the Special Public Prosecutor. Case dockets from National and Regional Investigation Committees, the police, and PDCs/WDCs are sent for consideration to his Office which

decides whether or not a prosecution is necessary.

In every Region where a Public Tribunal has been set up, there is a branch of the Office of the Special Public Prosecutor with an investigating team attached.

Criticism of the Public Tribunals: The traditional legal establishment, including some members of the Ghana Bar Association, as well as some foreign observers, have cast doubts on the fairness and quality of the Public Tribunals and on the competence of their members.

Much of the criticism centred around the fact that, initially, the decisions of the Tribunals were not subject to appeal. Since then, however, a law has been promulgated providing for a right of appeal.

Training Programme for Tribunal Staff: The Board of Public Tribunals is in the process of instituting a comprehensive training programme for members and staff of the Tribunals. This will include locally organised short-term Diploma courses in legal studies, as well as longer-term training for persons who will be sitting on the Community, District and Regional Tribunals.

Arrangements are also being made to provide a forum which would enable members of different Tribunals to consult among themselves and discuss procedures and sentencing policies in the light of national priorities, goals and situations existing at any particular time and with a view to achieving consistency and uniformity in the application of the law.

In the regions, districts, towns and villages all over the country, the PDCs have played an active part in building roads, cleaning the environment and performing other tasks beneficial to the community

The PDCs and WDCs

A fundamental objective of the December 31 Revolution was to give all the people an opportunity of participating directly in every decision making process affecting them and in the task of rebuilding their shattered economy, restructuring their body politic and regaining their national pride.

The People's Defence Committees and the Workers' Defence Committees, formed shortly after December 31, 1981, are a vital instrument for the attainment of this objective and remain the cornerstone of the Revolution.

In the words of Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, the leader of the December 31 Revolution and Chairman of the PNDC Government, "The PDCs and the WDCs constitute the very bedrock of the new democracy we seek today."

As defined in the *Guidelines for the Formation and Functioning of the People's Defence Committees*, some of the aims and objectives of the committees are as follows:

1) To guarantee that the masses of the people of this country form the basis of power to carry out the December 31 Revolution under the leadership of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC).

2) To mobilise the people to know and defend their democratic rights, and to be able to organise the affairs of the nation so as to ensure the availability of their basic needs including work, food, clothing, shelter, health and education.

3) To guarantee the democratic participation of the people — especially the farmers, fishermen and other working people — in the decision-making process in this country, and in the running of the affairs of their villages, towns and cities; their offices, factories and workplaces; and in the nation generally.

4) To educate and mobilise the people to combat any form of domination and exploitation.

5) To mobilise the human and material resources of the nation for the rapid all-round development of our country and people, and to ensure that efforts for our development are based primarily on ourselves.

6) To organise the people to achieve a perpetual state of readiness for immediate political response to any political attacks on them and the revolutionary process.

7) To foster brotherly co-operation and unity between our struggling people and those of our continent, Africa, and other parts of the world.

It is envisaged that "as the people, mobilised through the PDCs, learn to control their own destiny at community and workplace level, their elected representatives will move on to greater participation at District, Regional and, ultimately, National levels until the democracy founded on knowledge and understanding is achieved".

Membership of the Defence Committees has been and remains open to all persons who are prepared to uphold and defend the basic objectives of the ongoing revolutionary process and who have a proven record of patriotism,

integrity and democratic practice.

The organisation of the Defence Committees since their inception provides for the fulfilment in depth of the democratic process and for the attainment of the organisation's objectives. In keeping with the *Guidelines* issued by the National Defence Committee, citizens throughout the country organised themselves into People's Defence Committees both at the community (residential) level and at the workplace level, with the latter becoming known as Workers' Defence Committees, or WDCs. Each PDC is expected to elect four officers — a Chairman, a Secretary, an Organising Secretary and a Treasurer, as well as sub-committees dealing with specific issues. Both the officers and the sub-committee members are elected for a one-year term and are eligible to be re-elected for a second one-year term only.

The **unit PDC**, consisting of between 40 and 100 members, is the basic cornerstone of the organisation. Between 3 and 5 **unit PDCs** constitute a **block PDC**; between 3 and 5 **block PDCs** make up a **neighbourhood PDC**; between 3 and 5 **neighbourhood PDCs** constitute an **area PDC**; and so on through the zonal, district and regional levels to reach the **national** level, that is the National Defence Committee, the highest co-ordinating body of the PDCs.

Contribution to Development: At the community level, the PDCs have made a contribution to the economic recovery and future development of the country by:

★ collecting data necessary for planning (e.g. population, number of households and farms, production and storage facilities);

★ increasing as much as possible the production of food and other locally produced items and ensuring that surpluses are either properly stored or efficiently marketed;

★ establishing and operating People's Shops on a co-operative basis both for the distribution of local products and the acquisition of inputs from outside the area, especially those needed for farming and other local production;

★ ensuring that all children of First Cycle age attend school and helping improve educational facilities in the community;

★ conducting mass literacy campaigns in conjunction with the appropriate agencies and promoting the political, social and economic education of the population, especially with regard to matters of local interest;

★ endeavouring to provide a safe and reliable water supply for the community, as well as facilities for the disposal of wastes;

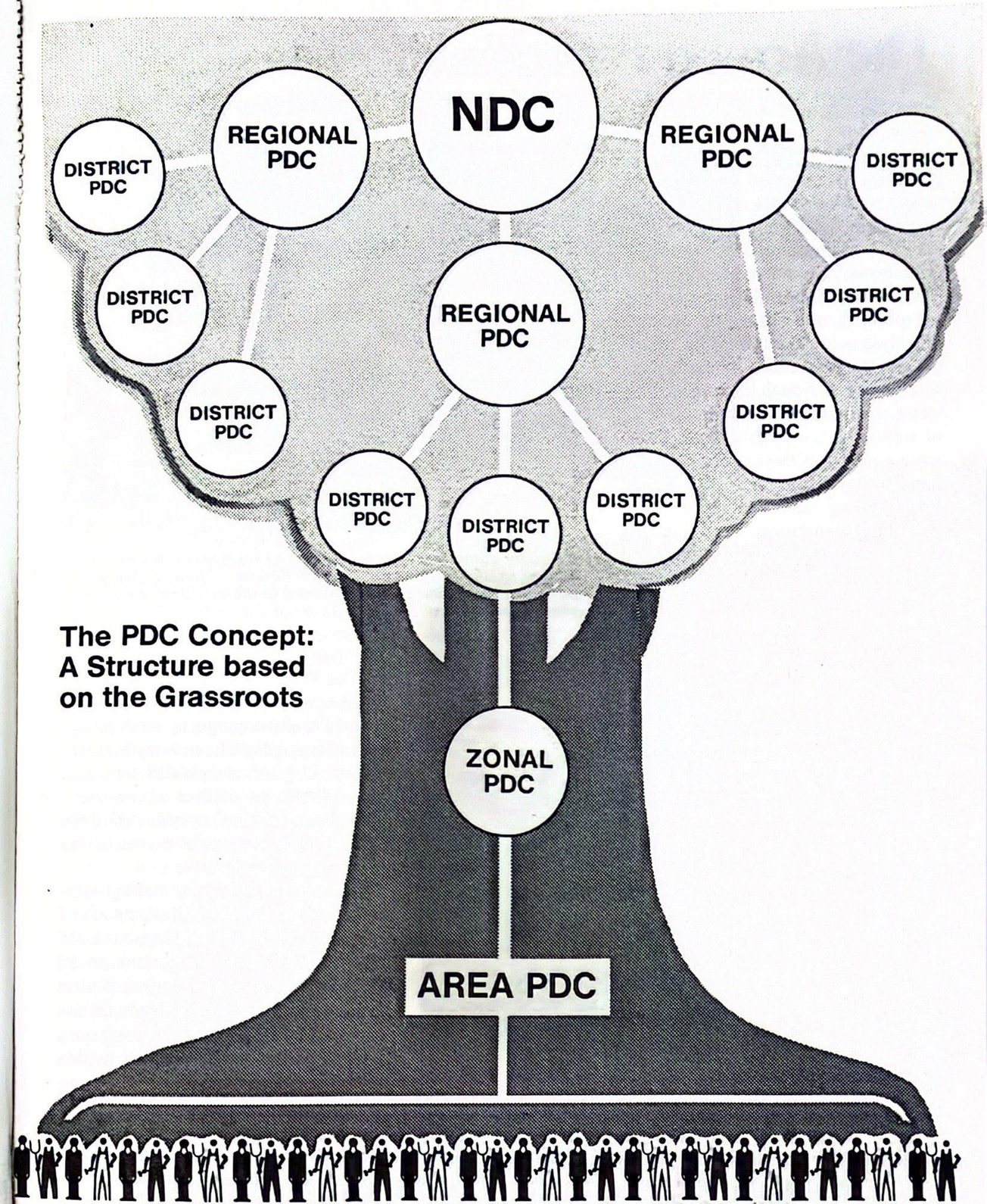
★ participating fully in primary health care activities, including hygiene, nutrition and child care, and encouraging the participation of traditional herbal practitioners in community health programmes;

★ identifying local building materials and encouraging their use in the construction of houses in rural areas, and helping enforce the planning regulations in urban areas;

★ encouraging the plantatation of shade, fruit and firewood trees in and around the community, as well as crop trees in rural areas;

★ organising patrols in co-operation with the relevant official agencies to combat theft and smuggling.

Similarly, at the workplace level, as well as at the District, Regional and National levels, the PDCs have undertaken various tasks in keeping with their respective terms of reference — tasks contributing to the rehabilitation and development of the country and to the attainment of the political and social objectives of the Revolution.



The PDC Concept: A Structure based on the Grassroots

PEOPLE'S DEFENCE COMMITTEES AND WORKERS' DEFENCE COMMITTEES

The Armed Forces

The Ghana Armed Forces have made tremendous contributions to the December 31 Revolution. They have not only safeguarded the country's security but have also involved themselves in activities aimed at ensuring the socio-economic and political transformation of Ghanaian society.

It is noteworthy that the Armed Forces are gradually and systematically shedding their colonial attributes of behaving as if they were accountable only to themselves. Although there have been isolated cases of brutality and misuse of weapons, the majority of soliders have conducted themselves well and have brought honour to the Armed Forces. They have been involved in voluntary community work, building Bailey bridges, constructing roads and in cleaning up the environment.

A greater commitment to the welfare of society is a marked feature of Ghana's 'People's Armed Forces'. Below: Military personnel help their civilian brothers in the erection of an electric pole

The Forces have also made significant contributions towards the 'Grow More Food' campaign, by establishing, in various parts of the country, bouyant farms. These have yielded tons and tons of maize and other cereals which have been sold to the personnel of the various military establishments, as well as to the general public.

During the year, joint military exercises, codenamed 'Operation Bold Union', were held between Ghana and the Upper Volta. The exercises proved very beneficial to the forces of the two countries who were exposed to the use of different types of military weaponry.

The Armed Forces have also made a significant impact in the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Middle East.

On the domestic front, a number of military operations to test the combat readiness of the forces, named 'Operation Bold Eagle', 'Swordfish One and Two', were organised.

The Ghana Police Force

The Ghana Police Service has undergone structural, operational and administrative changes.

As a sign of grass-root participation in the effective administration of the Service, Police Task Forces have been established throughout Regional and Divisional centres of the Service. These forces constitute an organised force for rapid deployment for police operations at a moment's notice. The Task Force operations range from price control duties and the prevention of smuggling, hoarding and profiteering to curfew patrols, spot-checks and anti-crime activities.

Ghana can now boast a police service staffed by dedicated men ready to work around the clock to keep criminals at bay and protect life, freedom and property of the law-abiding citizen Even in the first year of the present administration, the incidence of reported crimes dropped by 12 percent from 123,185 cases in 1981 to 108,253 in 1982.

One of the major innovations introduced in the administration of the Police Service was the establishment within the Criminal Investigations Department of the **Economic Crimes Bureau**, to deal with all sorts of business and trade malpractices, and thereby contribute to the improvement of the economy of the country. Alongside this unit is the **Essential Commodities Monitoring Unit** which monitors the movement, distribution and sale of specified commodities in the country.

Hitherto, the Police, especially in the cities and urban areas, had not been able to deal expeditiously with emergency cases reported by the public especially during the night. To remedy this situation, a prototype operations room was established in Accra under the command of senior Police Officers with well-trained policemen available to rush at a moment's notice to the aid

Cadet Officer Mohammed A. Alhasan receiving the Sword of Honour from Flt.-Lt. Rawlings as the best all round cadet during the 20th Police Graduation Ceremony at the Police Officers' Training College

One of the statutory functions of the Police all the world over is the protection

Residents of Accra can now dial telephone number 64343 or 25241 to report any criminal activity requiring immediate Police action at any time of the day or night and within a few minutes see policemen at their doorsteps. Similar operations rooms are being established throughout the country.

In support of the PNDC call for self-sufficiency in food production, an **Agricultural Unit** was established in 1982. In Accra, the unit maintains a 132-acre farm at Ashaledza where maize, cassava and vegetables are cultivated. During the last season, the farm realised over ₵25,000 profit from the sale of its produce.

The structural changes in the Police Service have no doubt brought it to the forefront in the bid to create social justice in the country.

The approach to Police duties and the general deportment of the policemen in the past two years have been very salutary. The morale of the Service personnel has been correspondingly boosted in the process; making the present-day Police Service in Ghana one that is a pride to the country.

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

When the present Government took over on December 31, 1981 the economy was in shambles. Real national income per capita had declined in the preceding three years, the account on external payments was in massive deficit, and the net uncommitted reserves were only ₵43.5 million (not even sufficient to finance a week's imports). The tripling of cocoa producer prices in November 1981 without the supporting measures to sustain that price had resulted in a deficit of over ₵3 million for the Cocoa Marketing Board. Thousands of tons of cocoa from the previous cropping seasons were rotting in the bush due to the inability of the previous government to make proper evacuation arrangements. The over-valuation of the cedi had reached such heights that the difference between the official and black market prices was about 20 times. The rate of inflation had reached a peak of 116% in 1981. Money supply had more than doubled between 1979 and 1981. Payment arrears had accumulated to ₵1,105 million. The banking sector's claims on government had jumped 63% from the previous year. Every economic performance indicator pointed in the same downward direction.

Government Policies for Economic Recovery

As the crisis in Ghana's national economy had persisted so long and had left such ugly scars on the social system as a whole, it was clear that the surgical operation needed to put the system back on track would be painful, the temporary side effects bitter, and the process of recuperation and recovery slow and gradual. The economic recovery programme launched by the Government on April 21, 1983, was formulated in full knowledge and understanding of these consequences. Despite tremendous pressures and repeated opportunities for making quick political gains and enhancing its popularity, the present Government has stuck to the programme faithfully. It is convinced that unless the root cause of the economic malaise facing Ghana is removed, it would be lacking in responsibility to the nation and will fail to achieve the goals of the December 31 Revolution.

The Economic Recovery Programme is set within a four year time frame. The first year, calendar year 1983, is devoted to stabilisation and consolidation and the preparation of the economic, social and political conditions for the launching of a three year Medium Term Plan in 1984.

The main objectives of the Economic Recovery Programme are:

- **to restore incentives for production of food, industrial raw materials and export commodities and thereby increase their output to modest but realistic levels;**
- **to increase the availability of essential consumer goods and improve the distribution system;**
- **to increase the overall availability of foreign exchange in the country, improve its allocation mechanism and channel it into selected high priority activities;**
- **to lower the rate of inflation by pursuing prudent fiscal, monetary and trade policies;**
- **to rehabilitate the physical infrastructure of the country in support of directly productive activities;**

Market stalls now have to conform to government guidelines on pricing

- **to undertake systematic analyses and studies leading towards a major restructuring of economic institutions in the country.**

In 1983, the agenda entailed basic reforms in economic policy and restructuring of supporting institutions. The objective of the 1983 programme was to lay the foundations for a sound macro-economic structure which will improve and rationalise the incentive system of the social and political mobilisation effort. From the record of radical economic and social transformation in other countries, it is clear that material incentives will continue to be crucial. The economic policies outlined in the following paragraphs form the cornerstone of the Government's Economic Recovery Programme and will be pursued with full vigour during the succeeding three years.

Exchange Rate Policy

In reviewing the performance of the economy, the Government recognised the stranglehold that the external payments crises had on the economy in terms of our productive capacity.

In order to alter the incentive structure so as to reflect the right signals with a view to inducing increased production and enticing enterprise away from parallel market activities, Government introduced reforms which included an exchange rate adjustment. On April 21, 1983, a system of surcharges on users and bonuses to earners of foreign exchange was announced. Initially, in order to mitigate the shock of the adjustment for the low-income group, a multiple exchange rate system was adopted involving surcharge and bonus rates of 7.5 and 9.9 times the face value. In addition, petroleum imports were subsidised by central

Government to maintain the price of petrol at ₵25 per gallon for premium grades, ₵21.50 for the regular grade, ₵15.50 for diesel oil and ₵13.20 for kerosene.

In introducing the exchange reform the Government was aware of the gross distortions that the overvaluation of the cedi was creating in the economy. Recognising that the resumption of growth in all sectors of the economy was contingent on the incentive structure, Government took steps reflecting this necessity while taking into account the scarcity of capital and foreign exchange. In doing this it became necessary to seek the assistance of international lending institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). After a careful study of the Government's programme, both institutions agreed that it was bold and viable. The IMF accordingly granted Ghana US$250.4 million as standby arrangement facilities and a further US$126.5 million as Compensatory Financing Facilities (CFF), while the IBRD offered a reconstruction loan of $40 million.

The World Bank also initiated moves which led to the summoning of a meeting in November 1983 between Ghana and donor countries in Paris. On October 11, 1983, the multiple exchange rate arrangements of April 21 were abolished and in their place a unified exchange rate of ₵30 to US$1 was established. Although this has led to an increase in petrol (ex-pump) prices, the petroleum subsidy has been reduced only slightly. The Bank of Ghana constantly monitors the situation with a view to adjusting the rate of exchange as may become necessary from time to time.

Fiscal Policy

Fiscal policy and the 1983 budget have been formulated with the view to ensuring financial discipline and eliminating the traditionally high deficit.

On the revenue side, the objective is to maximise receipts through more effective collection, changes in the basis of taxation and widening of the tax net. With the elimination of waste from the system, expenditure will be fully financed in the first instance from current revenues and by borrowing from non-inflationary domestic and foreign sources.

Government receipts have been low especially for *ad-valorem* indirect taxes and the corporate income taxes as the official control prices, though largely ineffective in practice, formed the basis for tax assessment. On the other hand, Government purchases were made on the ruling transaction prices — eight to ten times the official prices — thus rapidly inflating Government expenditure. The potential gap thus created between payments and receipts was either closed by new taxes, higher tax rates or by deficit financing.

Since the introduction of the surcharge and bonus system the basis for import duties, sales tax and purchase tax has been revised. The value of dutiable goods was computed as the face value c.i.f. *plus* the banking surcharge of 7.5 or 9.9 times the face value depending on the category of imports. At the same time it became necessary to reduce the import duty rates to conform to international practice. The duty structure was simplified and reduced to only three rates: 0%, 25% and 30%.

To make corporate income tax more responsive to the changes in the economy, all tax assessments will henceforth be made on the actual income earned during that year i.e. on a current year basis rather than being based on profits of the previous year.

Fees and levies for various purposes performed by Government institutions such as hospitals, the passport office, the Mines Department and the police have been revised upwards. A net wealth tax is being introduced.

As a result of the above measures, the total recurrent revenues are expected to increase from ₵4.6 billion in 1982 to a projected ₵12.6 billion in the next year. The largest expected increase is in the category of taxes on international trade.

A rural bank opens a new branch to serve the needs of the local community. Banks have risen to the challenge of playing a more dynamic role in the country's development effort

Expenditure control measures instituted in 1982 are beng strictly enforced. The recurrent expenditure will, however, increse by about 48% as a result of increases in the remuneration to employees in the public service following the rationalisation of the structure of remuneration incorporated in the reform package. Thus the recurrent expenditure in 1983 is estimated at ₵14.9 billion.

The proposed development expenditure of ₵3.1 billion represents only a marginal increase in real terms from the previous year. Although the requirements for rehabilitation are overwhelming, it was deliberately decided to restrain the level of development expenditure in order to maintain fiscal discipline.

The overall budgetary deficit therefore would be reduced from ₵4 billion in 1982 (4.6% of GDP) to ₵3.6 billion in 1983 or 3.1% of GDP. Total net foreign financing of the 1983 deficit is projected at around ₵1.4 billion and domestic bank financing is to be limited to ₵2.3 billion or equivalent to 15% of the broad money stock at the beginning of the period.

Investment Policy

Foreign investment will be welcome and actively encouraged in petroleum exploration and production, mining and mineral processing, timber logging, wood processing, quarrying, deep sea fishing, food processing, and domestic-resource based manufacturing industries.

To achieve this objective, a new mineral code will streamline, centralise and remove bottlenecks in the processing of applications for prospecting and exploitation. External account status will be granted to new projects as well as existing projects which are able to self-finance their foreign exchange requirements. These accounts are intended to guarantee free transferability of dividends and debt service payments and to ensure the regular and uninterrupted availability of imported inputs and raw materials.

At the same time, the existing foreign investors have been assured that they would be allowed to operate freely within the confines of their obligations and responsiblities and the general laws of the country. The socially conscious investors who are interested in re-investment in productive ventures using domestic raw materials and labour intensive techniques will be given all possible assistance. As the foreign exchange problem eases, the Bank of Ghana will make endeavours to assist such investors in clearing their payment arrears.

Prices and Incomes Policy

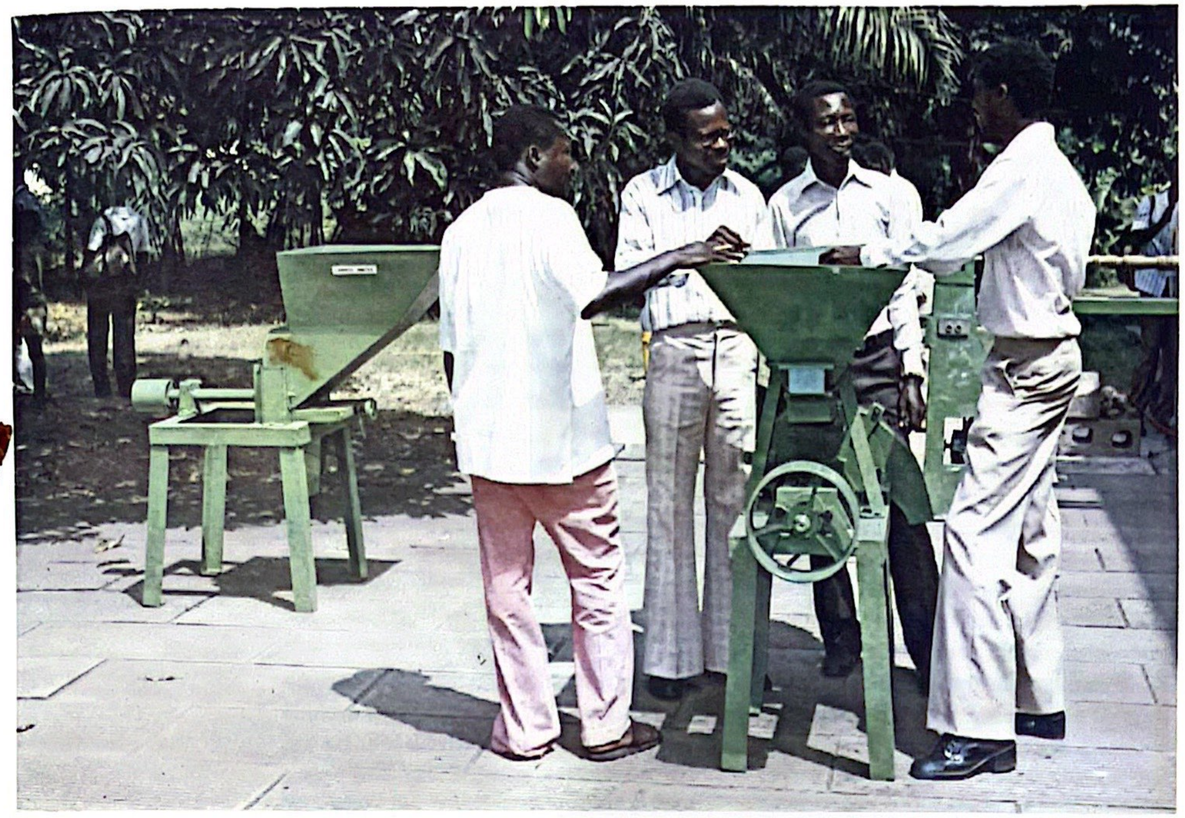
Incomes policy seeks to keep a

socially acceptable relationship between the various sources of income in the system in relation to their contribution to national welfare. It also seeks to redress the anomalies that exist in the structure of incentives and remuneration.

One of the unfortunate features of the economic policies pursued during the last decade has been an erosion in the real purchasing power of the salaried employees and wage earners. By the end of 1982, an average salaried employee was receiving 16% of his 1970 income in real terms. The consequential effects on the motivation, morale and productivity of these employees, especially in the public sector, are quite obvious. The Government doubled the minimum wage from ₵12 per day to ₵25 per day with effect from April 1983. The salaries of other private and public sector employees were also revised upwards. It is the intention of the Government to review the budgetary situation and make further adjustments in salaries, if possible. While there is concern that the real purchasing power of the government employees should be restored as quickly as possible, the dangers inherent in uncontrolled expansion in government expenditure that may defeat the objectives of this programme are also clearly recognised.

The guidelines on prices and incomes policy being followed by the Prices and Incomes Board seek to maintain a healthy balance between expected changes in prices and incomes with a view to protecting the real living levels of the mass of the workers.

Pricing policy in Ghana has for a long time been a mixture of administered or control prices for manufactured goods and market determined prices for agricultural produce, officially supported by minimum guaranteed prices for cereals and cocoa. To the extent that price controls have been effective, this has largely been the case at the factory



The Ghana Commercial Bank — helping industry, agriculture and commerce to revive the economy.

Locally manufactured farm machinery — a contribution to productivity and to the balance of payments

or wholesale level and hardly so at the retail level.

The underlying principle of the new pricing policy is based on the recognition that where there are serious supply bottlenecks, neither *laissez-faire* market determined prices nor the rigid enforcement of prices unrelated to costs of production is a satisfactory basis for action. A visible pricing policy must be formulated in the context of a systematic elimination of the critical supply bottlenecks to increase productivity and production together with responsible management of Government finances aimed at eliminating the severe imbalances that lead to heavy deficit financing and the debasement of the currency.

In an attempt to tackle production bottlenecks, raise productivity and production, and encourage responsible financial management, pricing policy will be based on production costs together with appropriate incentive margins. The aim is to evolve a set of competitive price guidelines which together with supplementary imports, especially of food, will moderate the scarcity premia responsible for the high retail price. Under the programme, therefore, prices have been determined on the basis of production costs of domestic produce with a margin for incentive.

In keeping with the above principles, the Government has revised the prices of a large number of commodities and services. Road haulage rates have been raised from 85 pesewas to ₵2 per mile in the case of bulk cargo. Domestic telecommunications tarrifs and external tarrifs have been allowed to move up by 325% and 127% respectively. Railway freight and passenger tarrifs have been increased by 380% and 100% respectively and electricity tarrifs by 40%. Water supply tarrifs have been increased on average by 150%. Petroleum product prices were also doubled

in April 1983. In order to relieve some of the effects of changes in the exchange rate, the Government considered it necessary to maintin some subsidy on petroleum products for the time being.

Promotion of Manufacturing Industries

In the area of manufacturing, the programme envisages (1) increased production and capacity utilisation in selected industries to produce essential consumer goods, generate government revenues and promote exports; (2) a major rationalisation exercise to achieve greater concentration and better economies of scale; and (3) maximum reliance on local raw material base whenever economically and financially feasible.

Inadequate backward linkages in the case of agro-based industries with indigenous supply of industrial raw materials and lack of co-ordination between the agricultural and processing units have stunted meaningful industrialisation in this country. After several careful studies it has been found that the development of the local raw material base should concentrate on the following agro-based raw materials i.e. cotton, kenaf, maize, sugar cane, sheabutter, oil palm, groundnuts, copra, coir fibre and rubber and industrial raw materials such as clays, iron ore and bauxite of which the country has large deposits. The programme will pursue a policy of linking research and production and establishing co-ordination between growing and processing units with the greatest vigour in order to develop new possibilities.

The rationalisation exercise will prepare the ground for shedding those industries that are not economically viable, are a net drain on foreign exchange earnings, provide few employment opportunities, are based on highly capital intensive techniques of production, generate almost no revenues for the Government or can only operate behind excessive tarrif protection.

Priority allocations of import licences, foreign exchange and credit are proposed for such industries which produce essential consumer and incentive goods such as bread, milk, milo, kerosene, cutlasses, matchets and tools, generate government revenue, such as breweries and tobacco companies, or are export-oriented, e.g. timber based and wood processing industries. To improve the efficiency of these industries, make them more competitive and stabilise prices for domestic consumers it is the policy of the Government to allow liberal imports of these goods and commodities.

State Enterprises

The problems confronting state enterprises are well-known. They include inadequate capital, lack of the required inputs, machinery and spare parts, heavy overhead expenses on redundant labour, too frequent changes in management personnel, poor accountability and failure to adhere to laid-down regulations. What is required now is a bold decision to address these problems effectively.

The Government has requested the World Bank to carry out an in-depth study of the state enterprises and recommend a redefinition of their objectives as well as specific measures for each individual enterprise that may include liquidation, merger or restructuring as may be appropriate. In the meanwhile, the Government has asked all the state enterprises to end the irrational pricing policies implied in selling below the break-even point.

It has already been decided to transfer the farms and lands belonging to the Food Production Corporation and the Ghana National Reconstruction Corps to those workers interested in operating on a co-operative basis.

The tarrif and price increases allowed recently for various commodities and services provided by state enterprises reflect the Government's policy to make these enterprises financially viable and operationally efficient. Subsidies and subventions to these enterprises will be discouraged as far as possible.

Agricultural Policy

The sale of all food grains and starchy staples takes place through the normal marketing channels and the Government does not intervene in setting, controlling or monitoring the prices in any way except to announce guaranteed minimum support prices.

The prices of these foods have varied widely from region to region and season to season but the net prices received by the farmers were so lucrative that if the natural conditions, especially rainfall, are favourable, there could be a big boost in the production of food. The deteriorating transportation system of the country is responsible for the high and erratic price movements of food items in major urban areas. The Government is therefore tackling this problem with great urgency and in addition to the emergency imports of tyres, spare parts and batteries more systematic efforts are being made to rehabilitate the roads and highways, railways, ports and cargo handling in the context of the medium term investment programme. These investments should help in reducing transportation costs and thus the cost of food.

The Government is aware of the problems faced by the farmers in procurement of good quality seeds. Although the Ghana Seed Company is endeavouring to improve its performance, the Government would encourage the co-operatives and the private sector to establish seed multiplication and distribution companies and thus meet the growing demand for quality seeds.

Similarly, adequate incentives including tax holidays will be provided to the co-operatives and private sector in establishing livestock, poultry and dairy farms as the present nutritional needs cannot be met by the existing domestic production.

Transport Policy

The Government intends to pursue a policy of healthy competition between the private and public companies in the road transport sector.

To this effect, the proceeds of the World Bank-assisted Rehabilitation Import Credit for the supply of tyres, batteries and spares have been allocated in proportion to the number of vehicles owned by the public and private sectors (20 and 80 percent respectively). This policy is to be continued in the subsequent allocations from foreign-aided commodity and project loans and also under the import programme. To provide proper returns to the road transport operators, tariffs have been revised upwards and the Government is committed to adjust them periodically to reflect changes in operating costs.

The Government is concerned with the efficiency and standards of service provided by the State Transport Corporation, Omnibus Services Authority and City Express. Efforts are underway to reorganise and streamline their operations by specialisation of effort, the formation of autonomous companies on a commercial basis, greater managerial autonomy and competition with the private sector wherever possible. These companies will be permitted to enter into joint ventures with domestic and foreign investors while the employees will also be given the opportunity to subscribe to the share capital. The prices charged by these companies will be determined in a way to enable them to break even, to amortize their external and domestic debts and to make annual depreciation provisions for replacement of their fleet without resorting to

Rehabilitation of the country's transport system is a first step towards national recovery

subsidies or grants from the Government.

The railways, which used to carry the bulk of Ghana's export commodities, are being modernised and rehabilitated under a World Bank/African Development Bank assisted project. On its completion the railways would have developed the capacity to move to the ports all Ghana's projected production of cocoa, manganese and bauxite. To restore the financial viability of the system, railway tariffs have been increased. A team of external management consultants is being appointed to assist in the operation of the system.

As the performance of the Black Star Line has been dismal in recent years, it is proposed to convert each of the 16 vessels owned by the Line into a self-accounting subsidiary company operated purely as a commercial enterprise. Bonuses will be paid according to the profitability of each individual company.

Relations with International Financial Institutions

The Economic Recovery Programme announced by the Government has attracted support from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The IMF has approved a compensatory financing facility in the amount of $125 million.

A stabilisation programme was also approved by the Fund's Executive Directors on August 4, 1983, supported by a one-year stand-by arrangement leading to the purchase of $240 million. The World Bank approved on June 29, 1983, an emergency IDA credit of $40 million for imports of tyres, batteries, spares, fertilizers, insecticides and sprayers. The African Development Bank has agreed to provide $30 million for similar imports. The World Bank has also appraised an Export Rehabilitation Credit for revitalising the cocoa, timber and mining sectors. Although no firm commitment has been made about the amount likely to be available, it is expected that at least $70 million will be committed for this credit before the end of the year. The project which forms the main plank of the recovery programme has been formulated in such a manner that other co-financiers can participate and provide supplementary financing to meet the objectives of the programme. The endorsement of these international financial institutions shows that the Government's economic policies are clearly in the right direction and worthy of wider bilateral and multilateral support.

Agriculture

One of the first steps taken by the Government after the December Revolution was to make agriculture the cornerstone of the economy.

The Government therefore embarked on a 'Green Revolution' under which farming implements, fertilizers and improved seedlings were readily made available to farmers across the country as an inducement for them to expand their farms. Non-farmers, especially the unemployed and those interested in farming, were encouraged to take to the land.

Heeding the call for a 'Green Revolution'

The establishment of co-operative farms is helping to bring greater mechanisation to Ghanaian agriculture

In addition, positive development measures have been adopted to further the envisaged agricultural expansion. These include:

★ The establishment of Rural Service Centres dotted at intervals of 12 miles to help solve farmers' and farming problems for the particular areas in which they operate;

★ A nationwide registration of farmers, tractors, and fishing vessels. This is to enable rational utilisation of existing manpower and facilities;

★ The institution of production quotas in most agricultural activities;

★ Localising, to a large extent, the provision of irrigation infrastructure; with the aim of achieving year-round cultivation of some crops; and

★ Initiating backyard farming programmes for urban employees.

Another measure taken by Government has been to encourage state and private organisations to raise the level of production of high-yeilding seeds, starting with maize to be followed soon by rice and oilpalm. A near record tonnage of fertilizers was used during 1983, while tractors and various farming implements have been fairly distributed, for the first time, on a regional and district basis to ensure that the machines are put to optimum use.

The Government's emphasis on the development and promotion of a grains base in the country has led the Grains Development Board to collaborate with international organisations. The Board has co-operated with CIMMYT (Mexico) on maize; WARDA (Liberia) on rice; INSTOK of Illinois, USA, on soyabean cultivation and ILTA of Ibadan, Nigeria, on cowpea.

The Board has also been able to introduce farmers to new techniques which have shown remarkable improvements in the yields of maize, rice and cowpea. It has introduced 'Block Farming' under which it acquires land, clears and prepares it, then provides inputs and parcels it out to co-operators on a credit basis. Repayment is made after harvesting. This method has been found to boost food crop production considerably.

The other sectors of agriculture have also benefited immensely from the Government's restructuring exercise. For instance, a big boost was given to animal husbandry when the Government made available large quantities of drugs and feed. The hatcheries which until December 31 were having problems obtaining parent stock have now had their units completely restocked, thanks to a ₵2 million import licence.

Backyard poultry schemes have been fully revived and are having considerable successes while 200 grandparent pigs for breeding have been acquired for distribution to farmers.

A successful attempt has also been made to enlist students and other members of the non-farming population to contribute to the country's agricultural output under schemes devised for their benefit.

Thus, with assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, second cycle schools have developed farms at which students

Ghana's hatcheries have recently obtained new parent stock

grow food for their own needs.

In both urban and rural areas, community farms have been established and worked by local inhabitants on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the whole community. Much of the produce from these farms is sold in the local People's Shop and the proceeds used to finance local development projects, such as community centres, local elementary schools or public health centres.

Agricultural Production (Staple Foods) in 000's tonnes

	1982	1983	% Increase
Maize	221	400	81
Rice	22	90	309
Cassava	1,798	1,978	10
Yams	470	517	10

Tuna Fish Catches	1981	1982	% Increase
metric tonnes	18,300	21,000	15
No. of boats	22	31	41

To improve the protein diet of the people, the Government has provided inputs to generate more interest in deep sea and inland fishing. As a result, fish catches have been increasing. For instance, tuna landings increased from 18,300 metric tonnes in 1981 to about 21,000 metric tonnes in 1982 and continues to show increasing trends in 1983. The Ghanaian tuna fleet also increased from 22 boats in 1981 to 31 in 1982 and 33 in 1983. At the same time, canoe fishermen, who still account for a major part of the country's fish supply, have received vital assistance, including outboard motors, spare parts, fishing nets and special facilities for the purchase of fuel.

In addition the Government is encouraging the practice of fish farming. In the first half of 1983 as many as 1,153 farmers benefited from fish farm technical assistance programmes throughout the country. As a consequence, 300 backyard fish ponds and 153 commercial fish ponds have been built and stocked with 44,683 Tilapia fingerlings.

The Government calculates that under favourable pond conditions, an owner and his family can produce 2,000 kilogrammes of fish per acre per year, valued at ₵60,000. It is therefore a healthy sign for the country that many people are now actively engaged in fish farming with many more showing interest in it prior to taking it up.

For food crops, it is envisaged that there will be modest but significant shortfalls in maize and rice. To alleviate the shortage which has been responsible for high retail prices, the PNDC has made arrangements for supplementary rice and maize imports.

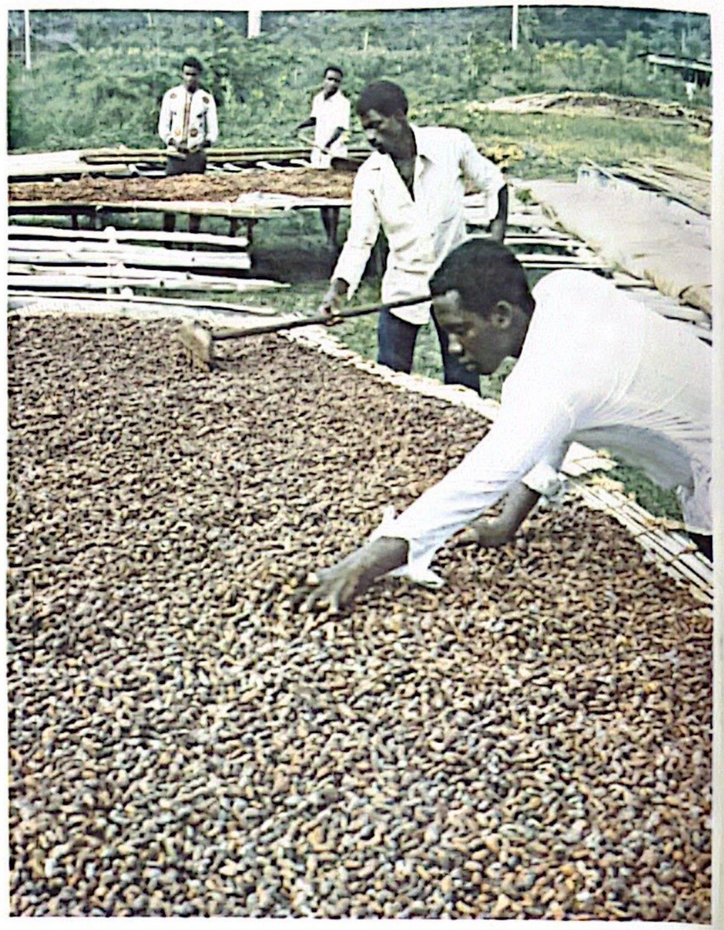
Partly as a result of these measures maize production in 1983 was estimated at 400,000 tonnes compared with 221,000 tonnes in 1982; rice from 22,000 tonnes in 1982 to 90,000 tonnes in 1983. With regard to cassava, it has been estimated that 1,978,000 tonnes were produced in 1983 as against a 1982 figure of 1,798,000 tonnes while approximately 517,000 tonnes of yam was produced in 1983 compared with the 1982 figure of 470,000 tonnes.

Rehabilitation of the Cocoa Industry

Since December 31, 1981, the Government, aware of the vital role of the cocoa industry in Ghana's economy, took steps to improve the lot of the farmers and help the industry as a whole.

The first major step in this direction, taken barely a week after the Revolution, involved the mounting of an exercise to evacuate the cocoa locked up in the hinterland. To ensure the success of the operation, articulated trucks were comandeered from public corporations, as well as private companies and individual owners all over the country. At the same time, both civilians and army personnel repaired roads and broken bridges linking the cocoa growing areas with the district centres.

In view of the malpractices associated with the old chit system — a system under which farmers received chits (credit notes) for their produce instead of cash — the Government, after painstaking consideration, introduced the farmers' cheque system, known as 'The New Deal'. Under it, farmers are paid by cheque payable into a bank of their own choice.



Government rehabilitation plans aim to restore the vital export earning potential of 'Good Fermented Accra' cocoa

Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings examines cocoa beans about to be processed at the chocolate factory in Tema

To help restore what is regarded as the backbone of Ghana's economy, the Government has decided that about 300,000 acres of burnt cocoa and coffee farms are to be replanted under a three-year rehabilitation programme.

A National Rehabilitation Committee was immediately set up and on July 1, 1982, the Chairman of the PNDC, Flt-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, launched the National Rehabilitation Exercise at Kwabeng, in the Eastern Region, which was followed by similar launchings, carried out simultaneously, in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Volta, Central and Western Regions.

During the first year, the Ghanaian population, especially the estimated 60,000 affected farmers, were made aware of the existence and importance of the exercise so that they — farmers and volunteers — became involved in its implementaiton.

Weighing-in cocoa at the inauguration of the Farmers' (Akuafo) Cheque System at Tepa in the Ashanti Region

At the same time, the affected farmers were asked to register with the Cocoa Services Division (CSD) which is to deal directly with the farmers throughout the exercise. CSD Field Officers also advise the District, Regional and National Rehabilitation Committees on fair distribution of incentives to the farmers.

As an added incentive to the farmers, the Seed Gardens Section of the Cocoa Research Institute, based in Tafo, in the Eastern Region, is to raise about 84 million hybrid cocoa seedlings to be distributed free to the farmers.

There will also be free extension advice to participating farmers and the Government will provide the necessary farm inputs such as matchets and insecticides.

In addition, determined as it is to assist farmers during the three-year programme, the Government has decided to pay them replanting grants totalling, in the first year, ₵350 per rehabilitated acre. Of this, ₵250 will be paid for every acre planted to cocoa seedlings and ₵100 for every acre planted with shade crops, such as plantain or cocoyam. During the second year, the participating farmers will be paid ₵150 per acre of well maintained farmland. In the third year, ₵100 per acre will be paid to farmers for good maintenance of their farms. The staggered payment of this money is intended to enable farmers to support themselves from the sale of their shade crops during the first two years of the programme.

The Cocoa Marketing Board has also contributed 30,000 bags of rice donated by the Australian Government to assist Ghanaian cocoa farmers affected by poor returns on their produce.

Developing the Rural Areas

The focus on the development of the rural areas has been aimed at creating the facilities, infrastructure and organisation structure needed to increase the production of food, ensure its storage or processing, and provide the health care, energy, housing and feeder roads needed to link important rural areas. It has also aimed to mobilise the rural people for the development of their assets, both physical and human.

Self-Help Projects

Toward this goal, emphasis is placed on self-help projects identified by the people themselves as a means of providing social amenities. Mass education, including adult education, non-formal education and adult literacy, has been revived to enable the adult illiterates in the rural areas to learn to read and write, first in their local languages and secondly, in English.

The provision of low-cost houses for rural communities on a co-operative basis, the roof loan scheme and the wall protection scheme, designed to assist rural dwellers to maintain their village houses, continue to receive priority attention.

With the advent of the December 31 Revolution, the strategy has been to allow each community PDC to compile a list of villagers who require building materials and other inputs.

The actual housing programme has also undergone a policy review with greater emphasis on the provision of cheaper rental units for specific groups, principally the farmer. The objective is to give priority to farmers and fishermen co-operatives in the approval of housing projects and also in the allocation of housing units.

Emphasis continues to be laid on agro-based industries and the production of local building materials. The provision of good housing has been tackled by promoting grassroot technology and the use of locally produced materials such as laterite bricks, burnt bricks and tiles. Improvement has also been introduced into the traditional design of village houses with accommodation which includes chambers (sleeping quarters), living rooms and provisions for cooking and toilet facilities.

The new K-VIP toilet designs, recently developed in the Third World, are now part of the house design. Proper location of the latrine pits by simple scientific methods and simple sieving, pounding and curing techniques have been introduced.

Co-operatives

To accelerate the development effort, the co-operative idea is being encouraged. Each village has formed a village co-operative with the objective of organising all the inhabitants into a viable co-operative society. The demarcation of the whole country into co-operative zones will provide an effective scope for development planning at the grassroot level.

As a top priority area, a selected group of villages have been encouraged to set up demonstration farms on which high-yield varieties of food crops and plants, which have more than one use and whose processing is relatively easy, will be grown. Mixed farming has been introduced into some of these farms.

Students from agricultural colleges and universities have also been involved in the promotion of good farming practices.

Industry

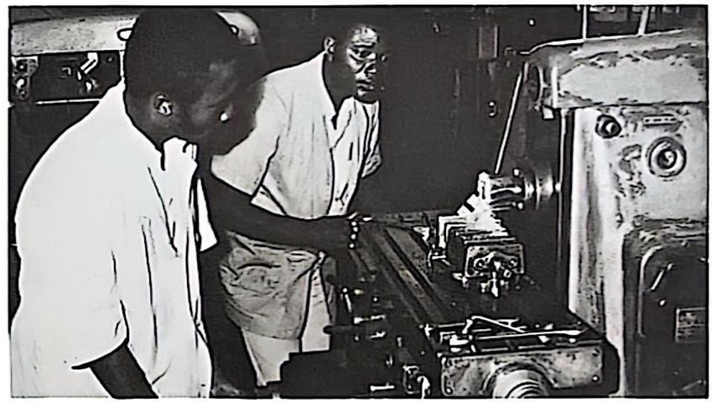
The manufacturing sector has been encouraged to depend more on locally-available resources and areas where potential exists for the substitution of foreign inputs have been explored. Thus, concentrates and essences for the manufacturing of soft drinks and soaps are now being developed locally to replace the imported ones. Vigorous efforts continue to be made to increase production in the palm-oil industry.

The cultivation of raw materials needed to supply agro-based industries, such as cotton, kenaf, groundnuts, sugarcane and timber, has been intensified. To maximise the utilisation of scarce foreign exchange made available to the industrial sector in 1982, a bulk importation order was made in respect of cotton, caustic soda, malt, paper, chemicals and components for car batteries. This has resulted in considerable savings in packaging, shipping, haulage, indenting and other charges.

Under the Government's Economic Recovery Programme, which has won the confidence of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as the Consultative Group for Ghana, foreign exchange worth $151 million was made available to the industrial sector in 1983. This made it possible for the first time in three years to grant import licences to virtually all sectors of industry. Factories which had had to close could now go back into operation. It is expected that production capacity utilisation will increase from less than 10% to about 50% in some industries between the last quarter of 1983 and the middle of 1984.

In recent years, rural-urban migration has been a common phenomenon in the country. Young middle-school-leavers migrate from the rural areas to the urban centres in search of jobs which do not exist. To some extent the effects of this practice were mitigated by the migration of Ghanaians to neighbouring countries. With the return of Ghanaians ordered to leave Nigeria, it is expected that this problem will resurface. To reduce the extent of this migration and of its associated social problems, the Government has embarked on serious efforts to encourage the establishment of cottage industries in the rural areas.

Left Technicians at the State Electronic Division of GIHOC contribute to the modernisation of the country



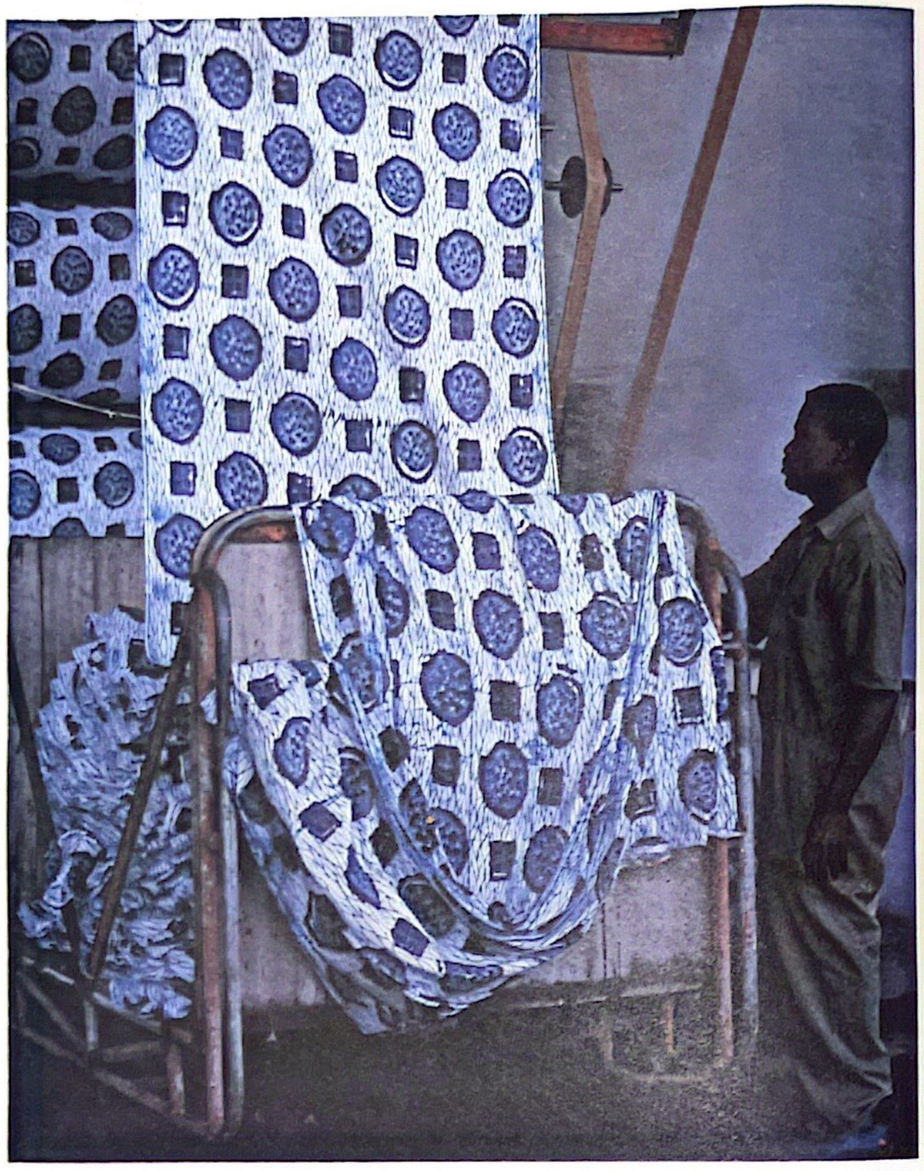
Above Industrial training at one of Ghana's polytechnics

Vigorous efforts have been made to mount rehabiliation programmes for key manufacturing establishments in the public sectors. In this connection, a Technical Assistance Mission from Cuba has visited the country to review the rehabilitation programmes of the Ghana Sugar Estates Limited (GHASEL).

The Bonsa Tyre Company, which replaced Firestone Ghana Limited, has been undergoing management re-organisation and plant rehabilitation with a view to stepping up its annual output from the present low level of

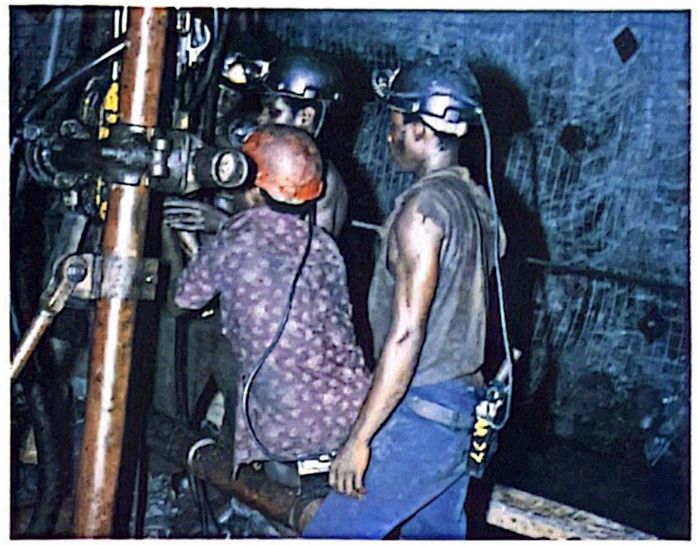
120,000 tyres to 600,000 tyres — about 40% more than the present installed plant capacity. In addition, contracts have been concluded with tyre companies, such as MODI of India, to assist in management and rehabilitation. Side by side with this programme, the sister company, Ghana Rubber Estates Limited, is actively pursuing a programme of rehabilitation of its rubber plantations and improvement in the quality of its product to make it competitive in the world market.

The cement factory at Tema, above, and the Ghana Textile Printing Company, right, which, under the management of its own workers' representatives, has declared a profit of £7 million

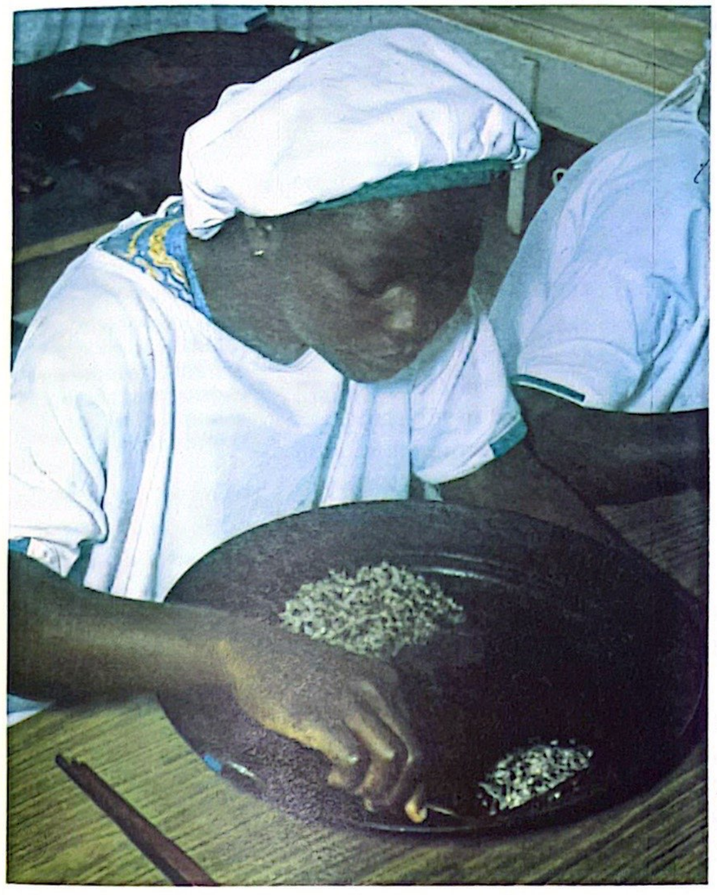


Natural Resources

Ghana has been described as a geological miracle because of the variety of minerals and base metals found in her soil. Gold is, of course, the best known of these having even given the country its former name and having generated at one time a substantial proportion of its foreign currency earnings. But bauxite, manganese, diamonds and timber are also among the valuable natural assets which accounted in the past for much of the value of exports and which could help provide some of the foreign exchange needed for rehabilitation and development. The Government recognises the importance of these assets and is determined to ensure that they are fully and efficiently exploited for the benefit of the people.



Above: Gold mining. Below: Diamond sorting



As is known, however, production in the mining and timber sectors has fallen dramatically over the past decade, in some cases reaching a point at which operational costs, including foreign inputs, exceeded revenue. The State Gold Mining Corporation, for instance, produced 111,152 fine ounces of gold in 1980, but its output for the first half of 1983 fell to 20,743 F.oz. Gold production in the country as a whole dropped from nearly 700,000 F.oz. in 1970 to some 360,000 F.oz. in 1982. The decline in manganese production has been similarly acute. In 1972 Ghana produced over half a million tonnes of manganese but only one fifth of that amount was produced in 1977, though the figure rose to 166,000 tonnes in 1982. In the timber industry, the production of round logs and sawn timber plumetted during the last 10 years, although veneer and plywood production rose steadily.

The decline is attributed partly to such factors as obsolete machinery and equipment, inadequate infrastructure, weak management and lack of sufficient capital investment, due, in turn, to the shortage of foreign currency for the import of essential inputs. The drop in world demand and, consequently, in the price of some of Ghana's

mineral exports, was a contributory factor. But a major factor, partly explaining also the industry's inability to re-equip itself and meet vital operational costs, arose from the value of the cedi in relation to foreign currencies. Indeed, the prevailing rate of exchange at the time of the December 31 Revolution meant that producers, both in the private and government sectors, had to rely on the cedi equivalent of the foreign currency earned by their exports to meet their costs. At the rate obtaining at the time this was often inadequate, prompting producers either to smuggle out part of their output, or to cut their costs by curtailing necessary investments and thus allowing production to drop.

The financial measures introduced by the Government in the 1983 budget, providing for substantial export bonuses, and the subsequent currency adjustments announced in October of that year, are expected to go a long way towards ensuring the economic viability of the mining and timber sectors and thus promoting production and exports.

Moreover, to assist the two industries in the shorter term, rehabilitation programmes, scheduled to be implemented between 1984 and 1986, have been drawn up. These provide, among other things, for the re-equipment of mining and timber enterprises and for the provision of badly needed infrastructural facilities, including transport and power. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has already been allocated $84 million to assist the timber and mining sectors during the first year of the rehabilitation programme. However, this is only part of the financing requirement as it has been estimated that the mining sector alone would need foreign exchange investments of the order of $114 million during the three-year period. An additional $123 million would be required to finance consumables, but this component is expected to be financed by the various mining ventures. For the timber sector a total investment of some $341 million is planned for mill rehabilitation and capital replacement programmes.

After short-term rehabilitation it is expected that timber production could reach 1.6 million cubic metres

As a result of government efforts to revive the economy, funds for the rehabilitation programmes can also be expected from foreign sources, including the World Bank and the International Development Association (IDA). The latter has already pledged a credit of $95 million for the rehabilitation of the export sector of which the mining and timber industries are a major component. The IDA programme has been conceived in such a way as to attract co-financing from the private sector, and this augurs well for the two industries.

Infrastructure

Energy

In the light of the prevailing world energy crisis and the severe effect of oil purchases on the nation's scarce foreign exchange resources, it has been Government policy since the Revolution of December 31, 1981, to intensify the search for additional local sources of energy with a view to reducing the oil bill and eventually making the country self-sufficient in fuel.

Thus, in 1982, an agreement was signed with Geophysical Services Incorporated (GSI) of Bedford, England, which carried out a non-exclusive seismic offshore survey. Following the release of the findings, the Government was to offer blocks in the area covered by the surveys for bids by a number of oil companies which have expressed interest.

A second agreement with Robertson Research International, among other things, evaluated the quality of existing geological and geophysical data, and assembled all the geological and engineering reports on wells so far drilled in the country.

From the encouraging oil seeps, tested commercial and sub-commercial hydrocarbons and the number of undrilled strucutres offshore Ghana, there is optimism that a viable Ghanaian oil and gas industry might spring up in the future to achieve import substitution and leave a margin for export.

As part of the World Bank funded energy project, the Government will in due course intitiate a study for the evaluation of petroleum geological potential of the Keta, Tano and offshore sedimentary basins.

The Romanian Government has also indicated its interest in undertaking a joint venture project with Ghana in oil exploration and production in the Keta basin. Another international company, Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation, has signed with the Government a bilateral agreement for a new oil and gas exploration project at an estimated cost of ¢23 million.

As a result of an agreement signed between the Government and BEICIP of France, a comprehensive study of the petroleum refining sector in Ghana has begun as part of the World Bank technical assistance for Ghana. The study invisages the revamping of existing facilities at the Tema refinery, the installation of additional facilities for the utilisation of by-products and the evaluation of the prsent deman in petroleum products which will also forecast demand up to the year 2000.

Hydro and Solar Power

The rising cost of crude oil and petroleum products has turned the attention of the Government to investigating other sources of energy. In this regard, preliminary work has started on the possibility of using solar energy in agriculture (crop drying), solar heated water for schools, hospitals and dispensaries, homes and hotels as well as photovoltaic cells for the generation of small amounts of solar power.

The power station at Kpong, inaugurated in July 1982, has increased Ghana's hydroelectric power output capacity to 1,072 Mw.

As a further boost to Ghana's industrial projections, Ghana's second hydroelectric project, at Kpong, was commissioned in July 1982. With the commissioning, the country's overall installed capacity has been increased from 912 Mw to 1072 Mw.

During the past two years, four contracts, worth ₵ 53.31 million, were signed for the implementation of the first phase of supplying hydroelectric power to the Volta Region. The Volta Region electrification project which is being executed in phases is designed to connect the Volta Region to the national transmission grid fed by the Akosombo and Kpong hydroelectric generating stations. Meanwhile, the economic and financial analysis of feasibility studies to tap VRA power from Kumasi to Brong Ahafo and Northern Ghana has been completed.

The Ghana portion of the project for interconnecting the electrical systems of Ghana and the Ivory Coast has also been completed and became operational early in August 1983; while the Ivory Coast section is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. The Ghana-Ivory Coast Interconnection Project will primarily enable both countries to enjoy the benefits of larger systems. apart from the experiences to be gained, there will be other benefits such as lower power production costs and lessened effects of water shortage, improved continuity of service and a lesser risk of total power outages.

The Akosombo Dam and power station — not only a source of cheap power but also saving foreign currency by reducing the need to import more oil to fuel thermal power stations

Public Works and Housing

In its efforts to transform the Ghanaian scene and meet the aspirations of the people by improving their living and working conditions, the Government has had to assist and redirect the activities of a number of public and private sector organisations concerned with public works and housing. Foremost among these is the Public Works Department, one of the largest government agencies in the country.

To help make its operations more effective and more directly relevant to the needs of the people, the PWD has been decentralised and each of its regional offices is now drawing up its own programme of activities.

Workers' Defence Committees have been established in all sections of the Department and play important roles in assisting management both at administrative and decision-making levels.

Drinking Water: In keeping with government policy of according the highest priority to the provision of safe drinking water — a factor vitally affecting the health of the population, especially that of rural dwellers — the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation received sufficient resources to extend the supply to 1,250,000 people hitherto outside the catchment area. This increased the proportion of the population with access to good drinking water from 44% in 1981 to 53% by the end of 1983. In rural areas, the number of people with access to safe drinking water increased by 57% during the same period, from 28% in 1981 to 44% by the end of 1983.

An important factor contributing to this achievement is a major well-drilling project which resulted in 3,000 new wells, all fitted with hand pumps, being made available during the period. The wells brought some 1,150,000 rural dwellers living in 1,010 communities within range of a safe supply of drinking water. In addition, two projects designed to provide treated pipe borne water to some 160,000 people in the Dormaa-Ahenkro and Tarkwa Districts are nearing completion with external cost assistance from the Danish Government.

Housing: Despite severe financial constraints and an acute shortage of equipment and building materials, both local and foreign, the State Housing Corporation carried out more work since the Revolution of December 31, 1981, than in previous two-year periods. This included 570 dwelling houses, 78 bungalows for the petroleum department, two post offices and the construction of 132 kilometres of gravelled roads in housing estates in all regions.

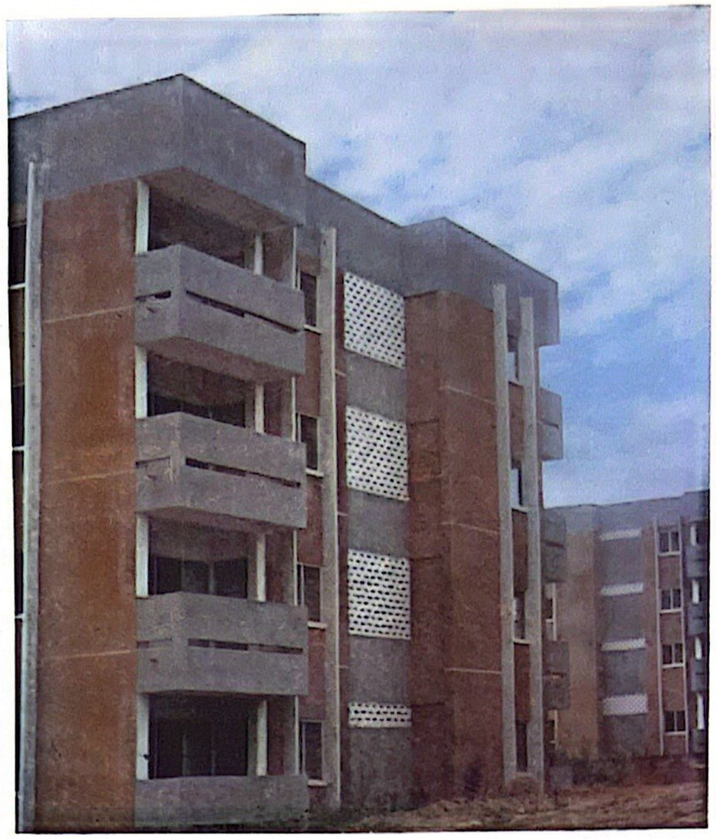
The Corporation has also drawn up plans for the establishment in the regions of small factories for the manufacture of building components from local raw materials. The proposed factories would include 12 brick and tile making establishments, 12 landcrete block moulding centres, 10 wood workshops and 2 nail factories.

Public Works: In addition to its normal maintenance responsibilities, the PWD has undertaken the task of rehabilitating and renovating a number of public buildings which had been allowed to decay through negligence and indifference, including the grandstand in Independence Square in Accra, the OAU lounge, State House and Peduase Lodge.

During the past two years priority attention was also given to ongoing hospital and school projects. Those completed during the period include a block of flats for housemen working at the Korle Bu Hospital in Accra; extension to the wards and staff housing, including a block of flats for nurses, at the Pantang Psychiatric Hospital; and completion of repair work which had been abandoned for five years at the Central Medical Stores in Tema.

Ongoing projects involving the State Construction Corporation included the building of a new Cathedral and Seminary for the Catholic Church at Sunyani; a 17-storey office complex for the Agricultural Development Bank in Accra; water projects at Ho in the Volta Region and Konongo in Ashanti; the highway from Berekum to Dorma-Ahenkro; workers' flats and office complex buildings for the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) in Accra and in the regional capitals, and workers' flats in the Tema area. In addition, massive engineering works are going on at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra.

Plans have been worked out to restructure the Corporation so as to enable it to enter into partnership and joint-venture projects with local and foreign business interests. The plan also provides for the SCC to become a holding company with its constituent wings acting as autonomous self-accounting limited liability companies



Newly completed workers' flats: part of the complex built by the State Construction Corporation for the Social Security and National Insurance Trust

operating in the various sectors of the construction industry — building, roads, carpentry and joinery, quarries, plant and equipment hiring services and so on. Under the PDC/WDC concept, provisions have also been made to enable workers to buy shares in these companies.

Civil Engineering: Work on the first mini hydro-electric project started in 1982, at Likpe-Kukurantumi in the Volta Region. The project involved the construction of a 10ft high concrete gravity dam and a cofferdam, now completed, to divert the River Dayi. The sub-structure of the main dam has also now been completed and work on the super-structure was expected to begin in January 1984. Three turbines and other machinery ordered from India are expected to arrive by the middle of the year.

The Government's efforts to provide coastal protection were vigorously pursued during the period under review despite the combined effect of increased wave action and very limited resources.

A permanent solution to the Keta sea erosion problem was facilitated with the development of a stone quarry at Tove-Kagakpe, near Dzodze, and the virtual completion of a first class 8 km access road to the new quarry. Stones from the quarry are to be used exclusively for the Keta project. A large quantity of PVC-coated wire-mesh used for sea defence works and other necessary materials have been imported for the project.

On the Labadi beach, too, near Accra, a ₵5 million sea defence wall was completed in June 1983, as the first phase of a project to protect the shoreline. The wall faces the multi-million cedi Labadi beach complex being built by the Ghana Tourist Board. Some 15% of the second phase has also been completed and a sufficient quantity of gabions for the implementation of the whole project has been imported.

Transport and Telecommunications

As part of its effort to improve the national economy, the Government has provided inputs and facilities to revamp the transport and communication systems in the country.

In the road transport area, all the three state organisations engaged in public mass transportation have been able to acquire new vehicles. The City Express Services received 200 new Tata buses, and there are another 200 buses on order. The Omnibus Services Authority also took delivery of 64 new Neoplan buses.

With regard to the State Transport Corporation, the Government has placed an order for 100 new Setra buses and 50 Saurer trucks. This is in addition to the 11 new buses which arrived in the country in 1982 to increase the Corporation's fleet of buses from 336 to 347. In addition, C882 million has been made available for spares.

To supplement public transportation as well as cater for the needs of the people in the rural areas, the Government has embarked on a three-year programme to import 200,000 bicycles of which 12,000 were expected to arrive from China and India by the end of January 1984. In addition, the Government is negotiating, under a suppliers' credit, to import motor-bicycles and mopeds.

By October 1983 over $3 million worth of equipment had already been ordered and tenders worth $7.5 million were in the final stages of processing.

The Ghana Airways Corporation has been one of the many public organisations to have received substantial government attention during the period under review. Before December 1981, the Corporation had only two aircraft — a DC-9 and one Fokker. Since then the Corporation has acquired a new Fokker F.28 airplane and a modern wide-bodied DC-10 aircraft at a cost of $56 million.

The Ports Authority has made noticeable achievements. In 1983, the Authority acquired three additional 10-ton portal cranes from Hungary at a cost of C6 million to facilitate loading and unloading of vessels and ease congestion at the Tema port. In line with the new sense of awareness, the Authority's own engineers and technicians installed and commissioned the cranes.

Additionally, as a means of ensuring that the old cranes in both Tema and Takoradi ports can continue operating, crane plug boxes and supply cables estimated to cost C1.5 million in foreign exchange and C30,000 in local currency have been acquired under the United Kingdom/Ghana Loan Agreement. Twenty-four portal cranes (18 in Tema and six in Takoradi) have been installed on six tug-boats and seven launches. A grab dredger and a diving pontoon for both Tema and Takoradi ports and 10 corroded mooring bays in Takoradi have been replaced.

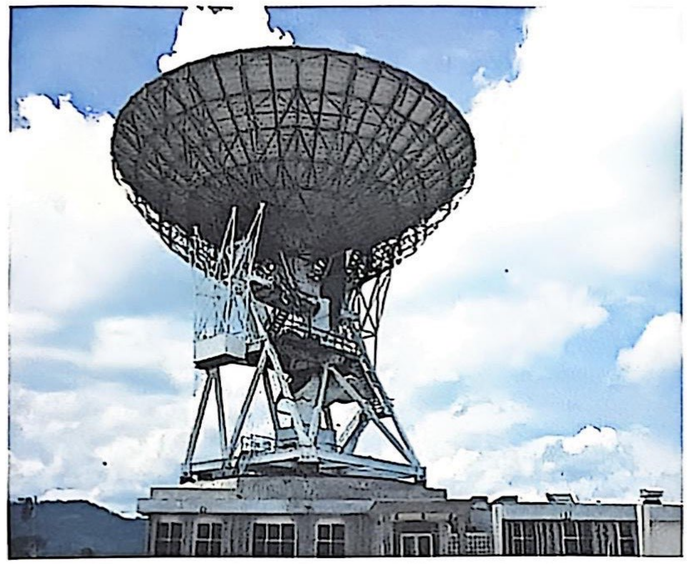
Tractors arrive at the dockside for distribution to farmers throughout the country

For the first time in the history of the Ports Authority, all security agencies operating at the ports have been brought under a single control body. This measure has yielded good results. Rampant stealing and vandalism and their related associated ills have considerably reduced.

The Government maintained a keen interest in a number of on-going projects of the Post and Telecommunications Corporation which are aimed at improving the services rendered by the Corporation to its customers. The most important ones are the Pan-African Telecommunication System, the Satellite Earth Station and the Telegraphic Switch projects.

With the introduction of satellite, international communication between Ghana and the outside world has improved considerably; better quality and more reliable international telephone, telex and telegraph services are available 24 hours daily for social as well as business use.

When the installation of the new international telephone switch is completed, possibly by the end of 1984, telephone connection will be operated in semi-auto mode; full automatic telephone service will materialise when the National Transit Switch, being provided by the World Bank Project, is completed. In this time frame, waiting time for international connections will be problems of the past. Telephone and telex users, especially the business community and commodity markets, will be able to communicate with their overseas partners, at any time, without the intermediary of operators.



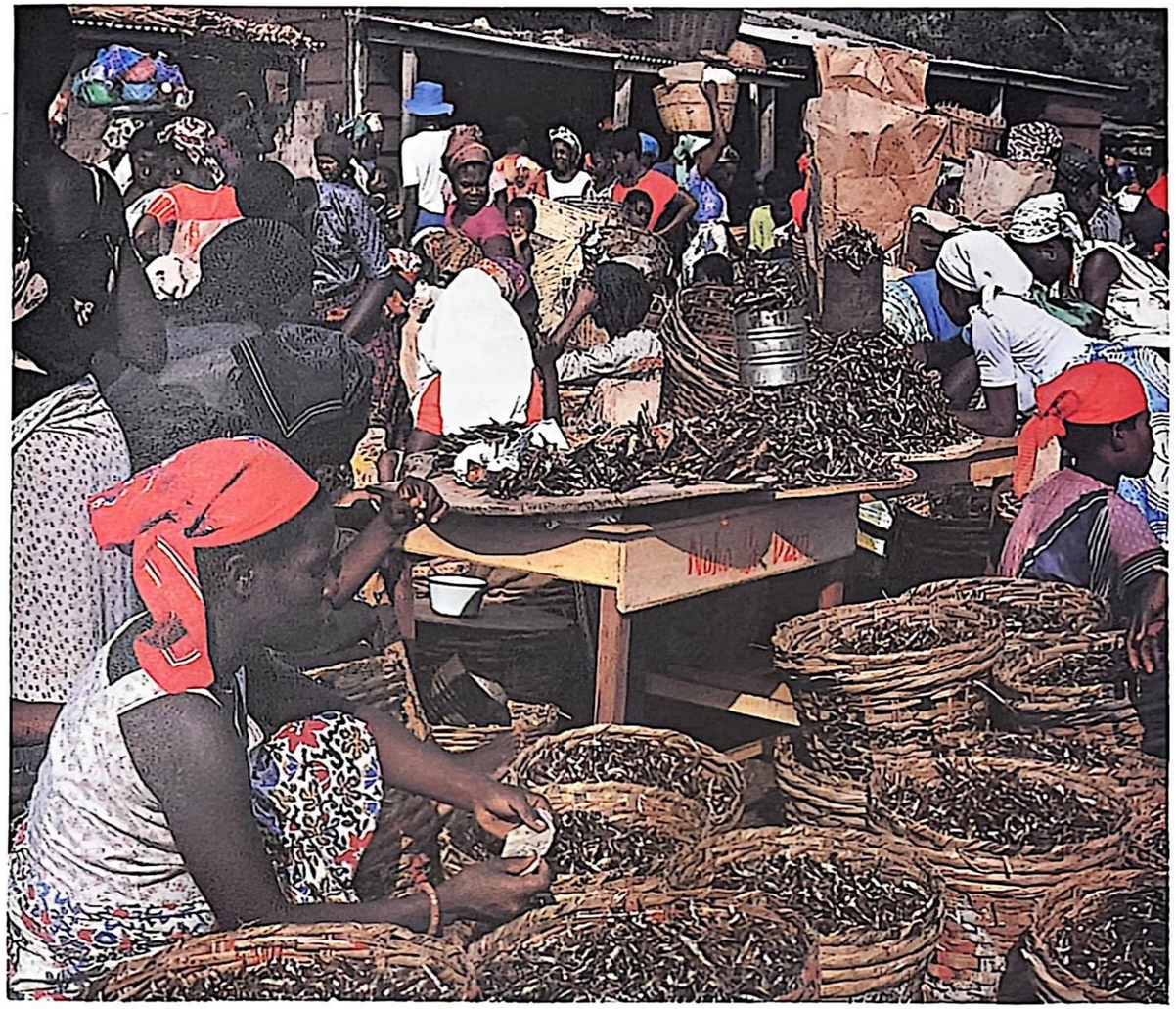
Ghana's International Telex Switch, Eltex II, from Fredericks of the USA, which employs Stored Programme Control, was commissioned on June 25, 1983, to provide a fully automatic telex service between Ghana and the outside world. The switch has an installed capacity of 585 subscriber terminals, 96 international trunks and 50 gentex circuits. There are facilities for expansion to an initial total of 960 terminals and eventually 2,000. Before December 1981, Ghana was operating only a semi-automatic telex service to the UK, the USA, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy. These countries also provided transit facilities to enable Ghana to reach other parts of the world.

Efficient communications with the outside world and transport within the country are vital to the success of the Recovery Programme. The earth satellite station at Nkuntunse, near Accra, above, and a rehabilitated motor road, below.

Trade

In line with the policy of diversifying trade, the Government has endeavoured to improve trade links with countries with centrally planned economies alongside consolidating existing links with the rest of the world. Towards this end, bilateral agreements have been, or are being, concluded with the USSR, the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Poland and Cuba.

Right: It is government policy to intensify and diversify foreign trade, especially exports. A Black Star cargo ship is ready to load at Tema



Market trading picks up as agricultural output begins to increase

On the African scene, Ghana and Angola, following meetings under the Ghana-Angola Joint Commission for Co-operation, concluded a trade agreement to strengthen the bonds of friendship and also to improve technical co-operation. Ghana also held bilateral meetings with Benin, Mali and Upper Volta under the canopy of the respective Permanent Joint Commisions. The Government has agreed in principle to conclude trade protocols with Egypt and Ethiopia for the promotion of trade and economic co-operation. The trade protocol with Egypt envisages the exchange of Egyptian cotton for Ghanaian timber and timber products.

For many years, the performance of Ghana's export sector has not been encouraging. This can be partly attributed to production bottlenecks, worldwide recession, and inflation which adversely affected terms of trade. Over the past four years, total export earnings have been as follows:

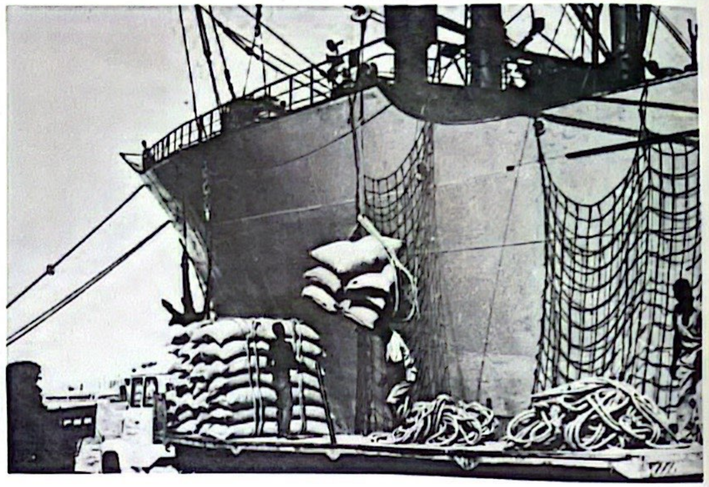
1979	US$1,123,330,574
1980	1,210,306,224
1981	798,828,087
1982	808,784,100

In 1982 export earnings from the non-traditional products showed a 118% increase over the previous year's figure, from US$12,969,957 in 1981 to $28,375,181 in 1982. It is expected that the upward trend will continue because of the exchange rate adjustment and the incentive measures introduced in 1983.

Before the 1983 Budget, the exchange rate of the cedi was so low that it was unprofitable to engage in the export trade. The exchange rate was, however, favourable for importers and, because it was more lucrative, some businessmen turned from export to import trading. This trend adversely affected the economy because while everybody wanted to utilise foreign exchange, few were willing to generate it through exports. Others remained in the export trade but resorted to smuggling and blackmarketeering to bridge the gap between the high production cost and low export price.

Timber, above, and cocoa, below, are important export commodities. Cocoa alone accounts for some 65% of Ghana's foreign exchange earnings

The Government has over the past two years pursued policies aimed at ensuring an effective and fair distribution system moving towards the rationing of essential goods, at least until the supply situation improves sufficiently to meet demand. This is a result of the realisation that to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of the country's resources, a system which seeks to guarantee every individual a share of the available goods should be adopted. In order to control the distribution of certain basic items, these are made available to the public only through People's Shops controlled by Defence Committees. Workers can have access to these goods through their places of work with some allocation also being made to commercial firms.



Health for all

Bold and pragmatic measures have been initiated by the Government to ensure an equitable and socially just system of health for all Ghanaians. In line with this objective, regional, district, town and village health councils have been set up to cater for the health needs of the people.

An Interim National Health Advisory Council was set up early in 1982 to examine the health care situation in the country and draw up recommendations for a new health policy. In keeping with the Government's policy of democratisation of the decision-making process, the Council sought and obtained views on the subject from the public and professionals in the Regions.

Based on the Council's recommendations, at the end of April 1982, the Government issued its Health Policy Paper which stated that Primary Health Care (PHC) would be the bedrock of a comprehensive health care system and that the system obtaining hitherto would be radically reorganised to support PHC and make it more effective.

Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings responds to an SOS appeal for blood

Increasing the catchment area of health facilities: part of the effort to achieve health for all by the year 2000

In keeping with government policy, 29 new health centres have been commissioned in the past two years while efforts continue to be made to equip and rehabilitate the existing eight major hospitals which has been made possible through the Gerhardt Buchmann suppliers' credit.

In addition, rehabiliation is being carried out at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital with a further DM9 million loan. A number of dental chairs have also been acquired for installation.

In order to adequately man these clinics, courses have been organised to train personnel. The novelty, this time, is that local personnel are being recruited for this exercise. This, it is hoped, will make the personnel more committed to the people.

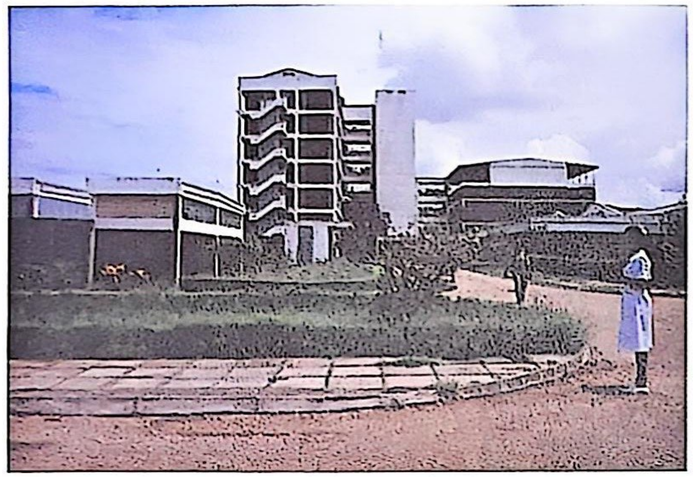
Side by side with this, many communities have succeecded in providing community-based health services at the grassroot level. These are provided by traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and community clinic attendants (CCAs) who before 31 December, 1981, numbered only 130 and 223 respectively. Since then, 560 more community clinic attendants and 281 traditional birth attendants have been trained.

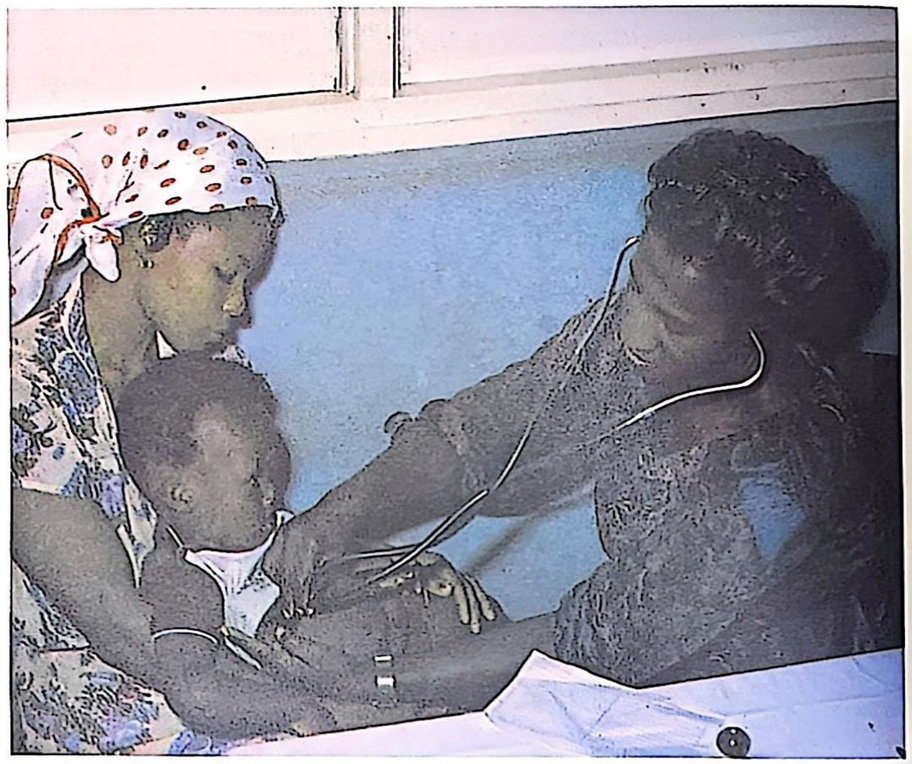
In Accra, primary health care has been characterised by the holding of satellite clinics. Since 1982, 22 clinics have been added to the 63 already in existence and, if this enthusiastic trend is maintained, the Government's programme to increase primary health care coverage to the general population from 30% to 80% by 1990 will be easily realised.

The control of communicable diseases has been carried out through the implementation of two internationally supported programmes, namely the expanded programmes of immunisation and the campaigns against yaws and yellow fever. These two programmes aim at controlling T.B., diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles and yellow fever, while yaws is controlled though case finding and treatment of both active cases and their contacts.

The Government has embarked on the control of a particularly serious outbreak of yellow fever, especially in the Northern and Upper Regions through mass immunisation and area spraying which is being reinforced by health education on the storage of water in houses. International organisations and governments such as WHO, UNICEF, the EEC, the World Council of Churches, the Baptist Mission, USAID, Japan, the German Democratic Republic, and Bulgaria have made significant contributions towards the programme.

The Government has begun the rehabilitation of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.





Primary Health Care shall be the bedrock of a comprehensive health care system in Ghana

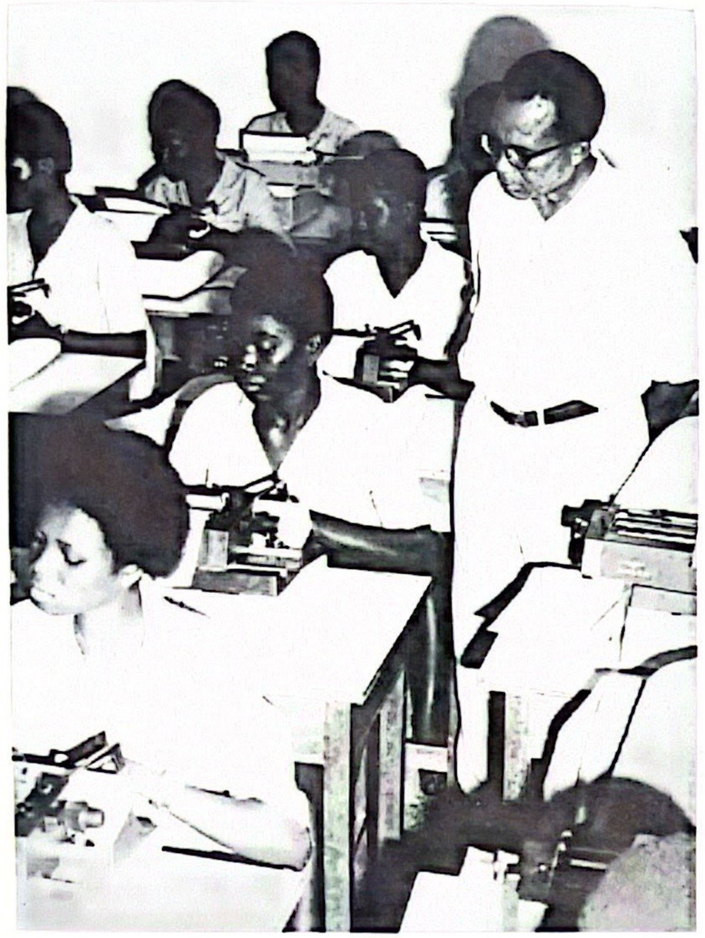
Education

Shortly after the Revolution of December 31, 1981, the Government began to review the objectives of education with a view to bringing educational processes in line with the efforts made to bring abut social and economic change in the country. This review resulted in the publication of the *PNDC Guidelines on Education* which laid emphasis on research-oriented education, the promotion of national culture and identity, and the development of technical and vocational training.

Educational institutions at all levels have adhered to the objectives outlined in the *PNDC Guidelines* which also aims at psychologically orientating pupils to their immediate environment and providng them with the basic knowledge and necessary skills needed to enble them to earn a living in that environment. As such, practical emphasis has been placed on the teaching of agricultural methods and science and mass adult education programmes have been undertaken. In addition, attention has been focussed on the establishment of community schools as a means of democratising education. Plans have also been formalised for the introduction of a two-year National Service Scheme to involve all students, when they reach the age of 18, in national development. Military training is also to be introduced to promote political consciousness in the young.

Practical activities continued to be a vital feature of the measures being taken to bring about change in middle school education. In this regard, the Government has approved the purchase from the German Democratic Republic of a large consignment of metal- and wood-working and technical drawing equipment for the Junior Secondary School programme. Another example of practical activities in education was provided in September 1983 when the Director-General of the

The University of Ghana at Legon, above, and a primary school class, below. A Government policy guideline on education has called for a more research-oriented education system



Secretarial training at one of Ghana's institutes of higher education

and vocational skills, technical education continued to receive support as a priority area and a number of new facilities have been made available. Thus, the Takoradi Institute, built with the assistance of the German Federal Republic, opened for classes during the period under review and a new technical institute opened at Ada pending the completion of the local Polytechnic now under construction. Negotiations have almost been completed for the absorption of three private technical institutions at Saboba, Kwahu Tafo and Have into the public system.

During the period under review, plans were made for the rehabilitation of technical institutions. Under the plan bilateral agreements were concluded with various countries for the supply of rehabilitation plant and equipment. The Machine Building and Power Engineering Centre at the Tema Technical Institute, abandoned since 1966, is being rehabilitated under a Ghana/USSR bilateral agreement. Under a similar agreement machines valued at $1.7 million are expected from the German Democratic Republic for the rehabilitation programme.

In addition, Harrison lathes and Wadkins wood-working machines have been ordered from Britain to be used for technical training; and in September 1983 the Japan International Co-operation Assocation (JICA) donated textile machines and a vehicle to the Tema Technical Institute.

Local and overseas organisations, notably the British Council, USAID, UNESCO and UNDP, have been providing assistance for further training. Arrangements have reached an advanced stage for the indigenisation of technical and vocational syllabuses and examinations hitherto geared to the standards of the City and Guilds of London.

With regard to secondary education, a pilot double shift scheme was introduced in Accra to utilise existing school facilities to the full and to increase student enrolment in secondary schools. At the same time measures were taken to remove the undue disadvantages suffered by candidates from public schools. For the 1983/84 academic year, secondary schools were directed to offer at least 50% of their intake to first cycle students from public schools. The teaching of practical agriculture in second cycle institutions has been encouraged as a means of helping solve the food shortage problem faced by the boarding schools — a problem which has tended to reduce the duration of the academic year. An appreciable number of the schools have responded favourably to the agricultural programme and have acquired land for farming. However, poor weather conditions have so far hindered the progress of the programme at some institutions, although the value of the scheme itself has never been in doubt.

The new approach to special education seeks to give equal opportunities to the disabled at school and work and full participation in social and occupational activities.

To achieve these objectives, the Beecham School for the Deaf was converted into a four-year vocational school in 1982. The school, which teaches carpentry and photography, among other vocations, was built with the support of the British and Danish Governments.

The Swedish Federation of the Visually Handicapped also contributed toward the establishment of a Ghana Braille Press in February 1982. The press has been doing useful work in transcribing regular textbook materials into braille for blind students.

The Christiffol Blindon Mission, too, has provided assistance in the establishment of a Department of Blind Education at the Presbyterian Training College, Akropong-Akwapim. The Department has been producing learning aids for blind children.

Ghana Education Service launched a modern fishing training vessel at Elmina as part of the national school continuation fishing programme.

The one-session school-day was introduced in all first cycle institutions to enable pupils and staff to organise meaningful afternoon activities outside the regular timetable. The procedure for the preparation of teaching notes has also been changed to bring about greater efficiency in teaching methods.

There was a slight increase in teacher supply to meet the increase in first cycle schools and in enrolment. There were 76,223 teachers in primary and middle schools in the academic year 1982/83 as compared with 75,649 in 1981/82.

In conformity with Government policy to give priority to training in technical

Keeping the people informed

The mass media play a major role in the dissemination of information and the education of the broad masses of the people on the aims and objectives of the Revolution and the tasks ahead.

Significantly, media professionals who hitherto discharged their duties in a perfunctory manner, have, thanks to the Revolution, re-oriented their outlook. They no longer regard themselves as working for an impersonal government and have rallied soundly behind the revolutionary process.

For instance, the Ministry of Information has produced more publications on government policies and activities since the Revolution than in previous years. In this regard, emphasis was placed on the production of posters on topical issues. The essence was to convey government messages in pictorial or graphic form so that the information given could be readily under-

Locally-made receivers are manufactured for distribution in rural areas.

stood and assimilated.

Thus, instead of the drab posters of the past, which concentrated on events featuring mostly Heads of State and their activities, the public has been continuously exposed to posters conveying in a nutshell various thoughts on the Revolution. Posters such as *Increase Production*, *Nea Obre Na Odi*, *Increase Food Production*, *Stop Kala* and *Grow More Food* made a significant impact on the people.

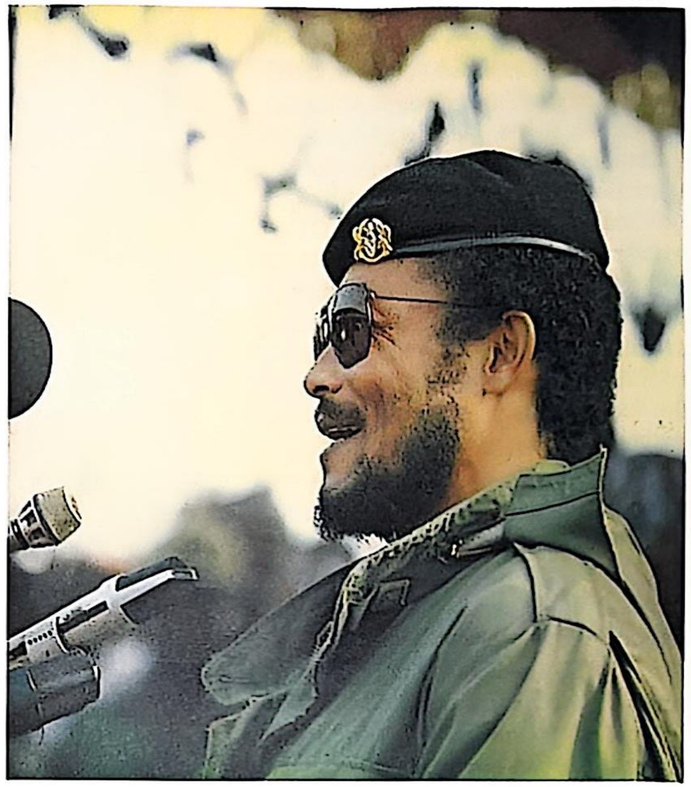
Another success attained since the Revolution has been the introduction of handbills containing educative material aimed at inspiring the people to greater productivity and increasing their awareness of the structural and socio-economic changes in the country.

As a result of the heavy demand for copies, a number of publications had to be reprinted. Among them were the PNDC's *Economic Recovery Programme*, the *1983 Budget Statement*, Proposed PNDC Laws, *New Guidelines for the Workers' Defence Committees and People's Defence Committees*, and booklets containing speeches by the Chairman of the PNDC.

The Ministry of Information stepped up its educational and publicity campaigns throughout the country. As a result,the aims and objectives of the December 31 Revolution, the PNDC's Economic Recovery Programme, the decentralisation policy, the 1983 Budget, and the need to pay income tax, to increase agricultural production, to rehabilitate burnt cocoa farms and to save fuel and electricity, to mention but a few topics, have been understood and well received by the great majority of the population.

The Ministry did not limit its efforts to the publication of literature. Slides and films on notable areas of the national endeavour were, despite limited resources, produced and shown throughout the country.

Among these are *Power to the People*, *New Deal*, *June 4th Uprising*, *Pope's Visit*, the *African Cup of Nations* competition and *Two Years of Transformation*. Video tapes were made of some national events including the visit of the Chairman of the PNDC to the Republic of Benin, and of two military exercises: *Operation Bold Union* and *Bold Eagle*.



A progress report to the nation: Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings regularly informs the people about important developments

Overseas publicity received much attention during the years under review. The flow of information and publicity materials to Ghana's missions overseas was maintained and various programmes were undertaken to project a favourable image of the country.

In addition to developing the mass media, the Ministry relentlessly ensured its full utilisation for the dissemination of information on Government activities and programmes. Despite the foreign exchange constraints, the Government issued import licence allocations to the media for the procurement of newsprint, printing accessories and the rehabilitation of the equipment of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation.

Culture and Tourism

The cultural policy and programme launched at the advent of the Revolution has taken root and is beginning to bear fruits. It has gone a long way in making the people aware of their cultural heritage and of the danger of allowing their traditional and cultural identity to be over-shadowed by foreign cultures.

The programme has also attempted to explain to Ghanaians that culture goes far beyond the frontiers of drumming and dancing, and that it embraces mental liberation, self-assertion, self-discovery, nationalism and patriotism.

As a result of this '*cultural revolution*' more Ghanaians are now appreciating the beauty and values of their lifestyles.

The critical eye will see that Ghanaian and African culture, which had been neglected and adulterated, is now respected, admired and developed. This new awareness and appreciation is exemplified by the new mode of dressing, hair styles, good habits, etc., which one can call Ghanaian or African. To buttress the cultural programme and provide a forum for discussion and education in local communities, a weekly variety programme called *Sankofa*, which literally translated means a revisit to the past, has been introduced in various parts of the Regions.

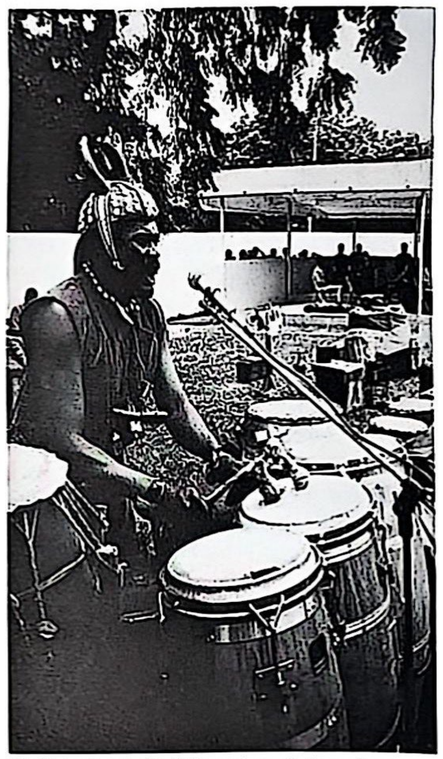
To provide the infrastructure needed to develop and promote Ghana's rich cultural heritage, four new entertainment centres are to be built at Koforiduca, Cape Coast, Sunyani and Bolgatanga. An amount of ₵20 million has been earmarked for the purpose. In addition, comprehensive long-term

Ghana's traditional markets have always been a great tourist attraction

A wide selection of traditional artifacts awaits the discriminating tourist

plans have been mapped out to provide all the ten regional capitals with theatres.

Tourism has been recognised as one of the sectors capable of generating appreciable foreign exchange for the support of the ailing economy. Relentless efforts are being made by the Government to provide the sector with the necessary infrastructural facilities. Unfortunately, due to inflationary trends, it has not been possible to give the tourist industry the support it rightly deserves. However, some modest achievements have been recorded since the advent of the December 31 Revolution. Rehabilitation work has



Cultural music (above) and dancing (below left) feature prominently at most state functions and are a constant tourist attraction

been completed in a number of the state hotels while others are near completion.

Innovations at the state hotels include the introduction of Ghanaian dishes to the menus. In order to sustain this effort, steps have been taken to obtain farm land for food production while the 'backyard farm' scheme run by the state hotels has proved most successful.

The Arts Council of Ghana has been re-organised to put it in a better position to direct the promotion and development of Ghanaian art and culture. There is a marked intensification of its supervisory function of previewing the repertoires of artistic groups which travel outside the country to ensure that the standard of their performances is culturally acceptable. It has also redoubled its efforts to give encouragement and support to the various national artistic and cultural associations.

SPORTS

The term 'Sporting Nation' can be applied to many countries throughout the world, but this title is particularly appropirate to Ghana. Throughout the country enthusiasm for a wide range of sports spreads from players and administrators right down to a knowledgeable public who avidly follow the exploits of their heroes and heroines whether they are competing at home or representing their country for international honours.

Hence, it was a disappointment and a blow to national pride as Ghana's sporting prowess declined after initial post-independence successes in soccer, boxing, athletics and table tennis. Poor planning, lack of facilities and maladministration all combined to frustrate any attempts to revive Ghana to her former sporting glories.

The new administration, on coming to power, recognised the importance of sport to the people, and seeing the need for urgent action, set about halting the decline. Sporting facilities were improved and financial assistance was provided, as far as the constraints of the economy would allow. Matters were considerably helped by the establishment of the Sports Development and Sportsmen/women Welfare Fund. Apart from helping sporting bodies, the Fund also assists former sportsmen and women as well as looking after the welfare of present day competitors, and many areas of sport have felt the benefits.

Soccer is by far the most popular sport in Ghana and was the first to feel the effects of the new policies. The game itself is played everywhere, and at all levels from a simple kick-around on the beach right up to full professional standards. The country supports a flourishing league and individual clubs attract huge numbers of followers. The national team, the Black Stars,

Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings proudly holds aloft the Africa Clubs Championship Cup. On his right, the PNDC Secretary for Sports, Mr. Amarkai Amartefio

have enjoyed considerble international success, but they must have shared in the disappointment of the nation when the previous PNP administration barred them from competing in the Africa Cup of Nations soccer competition because they objected to the tournament being held in Libya.

The new regime, however, felt that the tournament's sporting ideals of fostering African unity through international competition should override any other consideration and so it was that the Black Stars set off for Libya with the blessings of the Government and the good wishes of the people to return victorious, having become the first African nation to win the trophy four times.

The Black Stars continued their success, winning the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Anniversary Cup in May 1983 and later taking the silver medal in an invitation tournament held in the Republic of Korea.

On one occasion Ghana had to provide two national teams to play in two different tournaments. The first team won the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa Championship Trophy while the second team took the bronze medal in an invitation tournament in Malaysia, emphatically reflecting the new strength

gained by Ghanaian soccer as a result of Government policies on sport.

At club level too, the country has had considerable success. League champions Kumasi Asante Kotoko achieved international fame by winning the Africa Clubs Championship, beating El-Ahly of Egypt, while Sekondi Hasacas won the West Africa Football Union Cup.

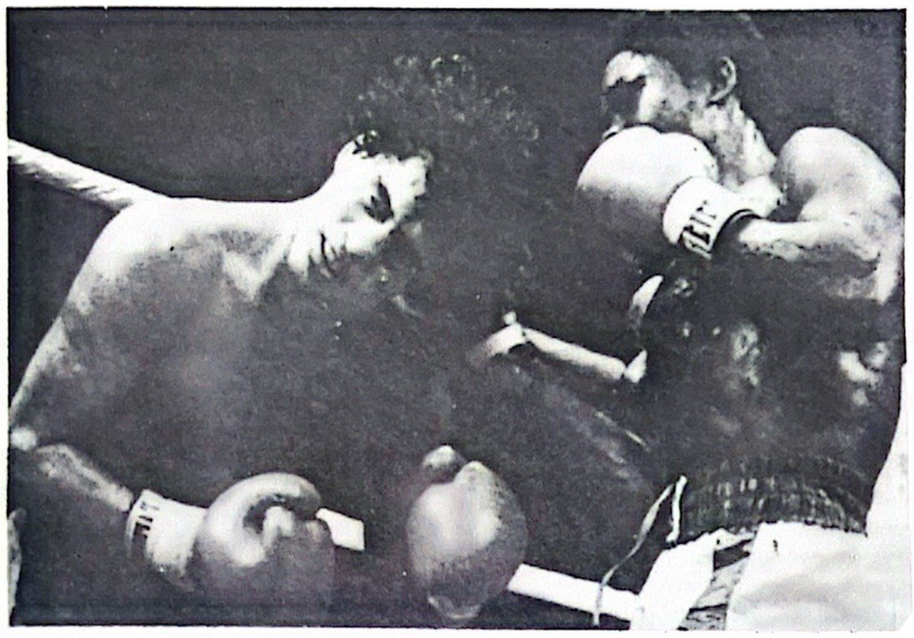
Lawn tennis, not traditionally Ghana's strongest event, has produced pleasing successes, the country winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the Pan-African Youth Lawn Tennis Games held in Libya and saw eleven year-old Harriet Quaye emerge as an exciting prospect for the future.

Other successes include two gold medals in table tennis, a silver medal in the African Youth Volleyball Games and a third place by the national hockey team in the All Africa Hockey Championships held in Cairo.

All of these honours have been won with the help of the Government and the Sports Development Fund along with the dedication and hard work on the part of the individual competitors.

Ghana's other strong sport, boxing, has also flourished again under careful guidance. In the amateur ring, Ghana won three bronze medals in the All African Championship held in Kampala in August 1983. In the professional sector, African and Commonwealth featherweight champion, Azumah Nelson, has received much government encouragement to progress and try to capture the world title, having forced himself into the world rankings with a fine performance against the then holder, the late Salvador Ramirez Sanchez. Nelson has successfully defended his African and Commonwealth title against Kabiru Akindele of Nigeria in Lagos. Other pugilistic successes are Ago Kotey who holds the West African Featherweight crown; Judas Clottey, the African Boxing Union (ABU) Welterweight champion, and Baba Sumaila, the ABU's Super Lightweight title holder.

All of these sporting feats have helped to raise Ghana's image on the international sporting scene, and with government help, results and achievements will continue to improve. Meanwhile, at home, improved facilities and equipment have made sport more accessible to more people therefore ensuring a good supply of future international stars.



Azumah Nelson lands a right hook to the head of Salvador Sanchez of Mexico

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings meets other African Leaders at the OAU Summit Meeting in Tripoli in 1982.

During the past two years, the foreign policy of Ghana has held fast to the search for peace based on freedom and justice. This is demonstrated by the Government's continued dedication to the principles of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the OAU and of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. Equally important is the Government's commitment to the re-structuring of the current exploitative nature of the international economic system, which acts to the detriment of the developing world.

To further these objectives, the present government has always been anxious to maintain good relations with all countries irrespective of their ideological or economic persuasion. While maintaining the traditional friendly relations with countries of the Western bloc, the PNDC has redressed the imbalance in our non-aligned posture by also developing co-operative relations with the Eastern bloc.

The Government's foreign policy is naturally focussed on Africa and, in pursuance of good neighbourliness, the PNDC has exerted its efforts to maintain and enhance cordial relationships especially with countries of the West African sub-region. Regular consultations either through their ambassadors in Accra or through special missions to their capitals have provided the means to keep our neighbours informed of policies which concern them.

Given the arbitrary delineation of borders by the colonial powers, the PNDC has acted to reconstitute or revise, as appropriate, the Joint Border Demarcation Commissions to enable them to continue to serve as useful instruments for removing irritants from our bilateral relations with our immediate neighbours.

Towards the attainment of this goal, the Joint Commissions of co-operation which Ghana has with other African countries have also been reactivated for collective self-reliance. At a time of much dwindled transfer of realistic assistance and resources from the richer

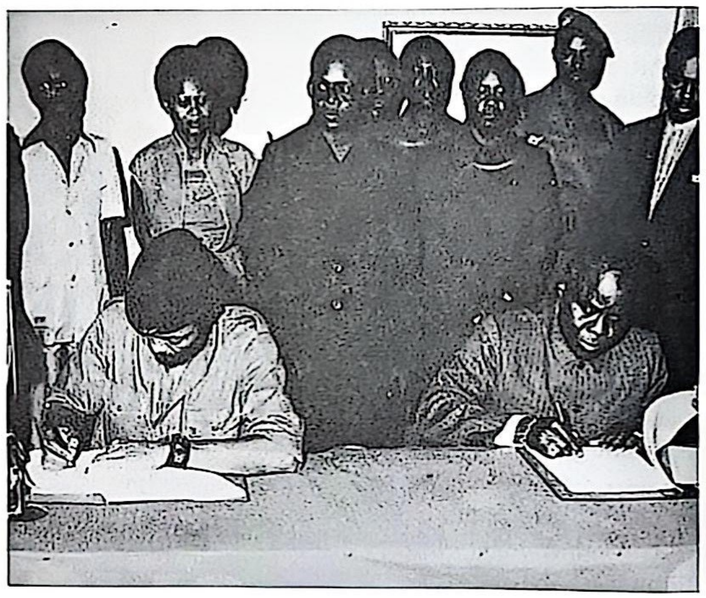
Leader of the Revolution J.J. Rawlings in a tête-à-tête conversation with H.E. Robert E. Fritts, the United States Ambassador to Ghana

to the poorer countries, it is recognised that the challenges of progress must be fully shouldered by ourselves through collective self-reliance. It has been affirmed that the dignity, and the unconditional freedom and rights of Africa are non-negotiable. Already the Joint Commissions with Angola and Benin have held successful sessions, while arrangements are in progress for meetings with Upper Volta, Algeria and Nigeria.

Changes in policy and attitudes in foreign affairs have been reflected by changes in the machinery for putting into practice this new outlook. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ghana Missions abroad have been made both more efficient and more economic. The Government's decision to reduce the number of Ghana Missions abroad has been carried out. Over the past two years the number of these missions has been reduced from 43 to 34 and arrangements have been made for appropriate concurrent accreditations to make for the effective overseeing of Ghana's interests and those of its citizens in the countries affected. A parallel programme is aimed to reduce the number of staff but without compromising the effectiveness of these missions. The numerical strength of home-based staff working abroad has been cut by 43% and that of locally recruited staff by 34%. These reductions have resulted in an annual saving of US$6.9 million.

Another significant achievement of this process of rationalisation has been the reduced sizes of Ghanaian delegations attending conferences overseas, and the increased use of staff at missions for this purpose. This dual exercise of closing down some of our Missions and reducing the strength of both the home-based staff and the locally recruited staff is consistent with the policy of the PNDC to prune public expenditure and provide a healthy base for sound financial management.

Flt.-Lt. Rawlings and Benin President Mathieu Kerekou sign a joint communique issued at the end of the Ghana Leader's official visit to Benin



Decentralisation

As part of the process to develop a real democracy in Ghana, the Government, in 1982, announced a far-reaching decentralisation programme aimed at achieving a fundamental restructuring of the machinery of government and bringing about greater efficiency and productivity through the involvement and effective participation of the masses at all levels of the administration.

Decentralisation is one of the most important policies to which successive governments of Ghana have since 1967 addressed themselves, but in which little was achieved until December 31, 1981.

Integration

With the launching of the programme, all governmental institutions, i.e. Ministries, Departments, Corporations — except Defence, Justice, Interior Affairs and Foreign Affairs — have become integrated with the District/Regional Councils as Departments of the Councils. However, certain functions of Internal and Foreign Affairs will be decentralised, i.e. the issuing of passports and identity cards.

Under the programme, the new three-tier system, has, as its base unit, the Area/Town/Village Councils, administered in co-operation with the local PDCs. Every healthy person is expected to participate in one of the many committees that will be established to look after housing, rent, sanitation, etc. The District and Regional Councils are the two levels of Government representation, and will co-ordinate the activities of the Area/Village and Town Committees. The structure makes government locally responsible, through a true union between government and the organs of the people's democracy.

New Ministerial Structure

A new general structure for all ministries has been introduced. Under it, the PNDC acts as the sole appointing authority for the PNDC Secretaries and Under Secretaries. The aim of this decision is to strengthen the political and ideological direction within the ministries. The post of Principal Secretary has been abolished and the new heads of ministries are known as Chief Directors who will have direct access to the political head. Moreover, within every ministry, divisions have been set up for planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, statistics and training. This is a new feature designed to ensure a more effective administration of all the agencies, departments, services and statutory bodies under each Ministry. Every division established under the new structure will have its responsibilities clearly defined and the officer in charge shall be held accountable for lapses or commended for progress achieved in his sector.

Under the structure, every ministry will have a Ministerial Advisory Board to advise the PNDC Secretary on the policy and administrative matters concerning the Ministry. Apart from the PNDC Secretary, there will be Under Secretaries, representatives of the technological and professional divisions of the ministry, nominees of the National Defence Council, the Armed Forces and the Police Service and representatives of major related organisations on the Advisory Council.

The decentralisation programme is expected to be completed by December 1985, a year ahead of the three-year Economic Recovery Programme.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TWO YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

1982

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

JANUARY 1

The New Year is ushered in with the news that the PNP government has been removed from power and that a Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) has been formed to establish a people's revolutionary government.

Ghanaians, who had been fearful of what the New Year might bring, learned that the new administration is headed by Flt.-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Chairman of the erstwhile Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), who declares in a radio broadcast that he has come back to transform the social and economic structure of the Ghanaian society.

JANUARY 2

● The PNDC assures the international community that it is non-aligned and has no intention of joining any power bloc. The assurance is given by Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, the PNDC Chairman, who says in a broadcast that the new administration will seek friendship and co-operation with all countries, regardless of ideologies. He adds that the PNDC will continue to honour Ghana's commitments to ECOWAS, the OAU, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, the United Nations and all other international bodies of which Ghana is a member.

● The PNDC announces the suspension of the Third Republican Constitution, promulgated on September 24, 1979, and adds that it would be the overall administrative organ of the State and would adopt measures to develop a self-sustaining and disciplined economy.

● Thousands of people, mostly workers and students, turn out in Accra at the weekend to demonstrate their support for the PNDC and its efforts to rid the country of corruption and indiscipline.

JANUARY 5

Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, the PNDC Chairman, announces that People's Tribunals are to be established to conduct investigations and trials on the basis of properly assembled evidence. He adds that the Tribunals will hear their cases in public but that "they will not be fettered in their procedures by technical rules which in the past have perverted the course of justice and enabled criminals to go free". They would deal only with special cases and would not replace the regular courts.

● The PNDC assures diplomatic missions in Ghana that it would continue to maintain the friendliest and most co-operative relations with all countries they represent.

JANUARY 8

Some 500,000 people, most of them workers and farmers from all parts of the country, pour into the streets of Accra to demonstrate their support for the Revolution.

● A task force of students from Ghana's three universities and other institutions of higher education is launched at the Accra Community Centre. Under the exercise, some of the students are to be attached to schools which do not have the required teaching staff while others are to assist with the rebuilding of roads and the evacuation of food crops and cocoa.

JANUARY 10

The PNDC decides to restore full diplomatic relations with Libya with immediate effect. The relations had been suspended in November by the previous regime.

JANUARY 11

A Proclamation establishing the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) and stating that it will exercise all powers of government, is published in Accra. It lists the members of the Council with Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings as Chairman and provides for the appointment of other persons as members, as well as for the replacement of existing members "as it deems fit".

JANUARY 19

In a mass demonstration of public spiritedness, over 1,000 students leave Accra for Akim Oda under the National Union of Ghana Students' Task Force programme to help evacuate cocoa locked up in the Birim District of the Eastern Region.

● Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, Chairman of the PNDC, announces that a national government is to be formed embracing people of all shades of opinion and with proven ability and expertise in their respective fields.

JANUARY 21

The PNDC announces the appointment of 10 civilians to head various Ministries. They are to be designated PNDC Secretaries and are to be directly responsible to the Council for the effective implementation of Council policies.

JANUARY 26

The neglected Dahwenya irrigation project is being reactivated in keeping with the government's policy to speed up agricultural production. Soldiers and civilians erect poles and help extend the electricity supply from Tema to the project site for the operation of five new pumps.

★ ★ ★

FEBRUARY 9

322 student volunteers from the Greater Accra Students' Task Force begin the evacuation to the ports of over 80,000 bags of cocoa locked up in the Nkawkaw area.

● The PNDC takes delivery of 800 Yamaha outboard motors for distribution to fishermen.

FEBRUARY 11

The Students' Task Force in the Asikuma Brakwa-Odoben District embarks on a crash programme aimed at improving the living conditions of people in the area. Under the exercise the students assist in the rehabilitation of schools, the clearing of roads and the construction of pit-latrines and other amenities.

FEBRUARY 13

It is announced that the Akim Oda Students' Task Force has evacuated 267,685 bags of cocoa in the first phase of their cocoa evacuation exercise lasting one month.

FEBRUARY 23

Black Stars soccer team beat Togo 2-1 in Cotonou, Benin, to become the proud champions of the first soccer tournament of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa, Zone Three.

FEBRUARY 26

It is announced that, as from April, the Accra/Tema metropolitan area will be supplied with an extra 15 million gallons of water, following the completion of the ₵16 million water project at Weija.

★ ★ ★

MARCH 5

The teaching of the Ghanaian culture is to be made compulsory in all elementary schools in the country, as from the next academic year.

MARCH 6

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Ghana's Independence, the PNDC receives messages of solidarity and congratulations from African and world leaders. In a radio and television speech to mark the occasion, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings says the Independence anniversary should be a time for appraisals and stock-taking for the future.

● Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, the PNDC Chairman, launches the *Green Revolution* agricultural programme under which civilians and public servants are to assist in a crusade to increase food production and improve the living standards of the rural population.

● A Rent Control Law is passed under which the rents of private tenants paying over ₵20 a month for accommodation are to be reduced by 50%.

MARCH 19

A first consignment of nearly 24,000 tons of crude oil from Libya arrives at Tema harbour as part of the 500,000 barrels promised to Ghana in February.

MARCH 24

The Black Stars get a hero's welcome on their return from Libya where they won the African Cup of Nations Championship by beating the Libyan team 8-7 in a penalty competition after drawing 1-1 in full time and then playing a goalless 30 minutes extra time.

MARCH 30

The PNDC decides to close down 10 of Ghana's 43 diplomatic missions abroad and to open two new ones in Libya and Cuba.

★ ★ ★

APRIL 24

Some 1,000 Workers' Community and Village People's Defence Committees have been formed in the Greater Accra region since the beginning of the year.

APRIL 26

Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, the PNDC Chairman, stresses that the People's Defence Committees (PDCs) are not intended to cancel the leadership role of management, but only to enable people who, for a long time, have not been allowed to contribute to decision-making, to participate fully in the process.

★ ★ ★

MAY 6

Libya promises to supply Ghana with another 300,000 tons of crude oil over a period of six months. This follows deliveries in March of 500,000 barrels, bringing the total value of the oil to US$10 million, which represents about 60% of the country's normal consumption during the period.

MAY 10

Constructional work begins on Ghana's first mini hydro-electric project on the River Dayi in the Volta Region. The project is designed to provide the people of the Likpe rural area with electricity, pipe-borne water, fish farms and some recreational facilities.

MAY 15

The Ghana Food Distribution Corp. decides to provide tractor services to farmers in the Upper and Northern Regions who have been selling their farm produce to the Corporation. In addition, the Corporation is to guarantee credit facilities to the farmers.

MAY 18

● The London-based Ghana People's Solidarity Organisation and other progressive organisations in Britain pass a resolution expressing support for the PNDC and welcoming the formation of People's Defence Committees in Ghana.

MAY 20

More than 400 towns and villages in the Ashanti, Eastern

and Volta Regions are to be provided with good drinking water as a result of the completion of some 2,000 wells out of 3,000 to be sunk under the first phase of the West German Aid programme.

MAY 26
The PNDC revises the 1981/82 budget introducing a number of far-reaching fiscal, financial and administrative measures designed to revive the economy. These include a lowering of interest rates, strict control on Government expenditure, the use of bank cheques in business transactions with the introduction of special cheques to pay farmers, measures to deal with tax evaders, the rescheduling of school vacations to suit the needs of agriculture, new criteria for the granting of subsidies to state enterprises, measures to save fuel and energy and free medical care for pensioners.

★ ★ ★

JUNE 1
The Ghana Posts and Telecommunications Corporation decides to go ahead with plans to construct microwave relay stations across the country to link with those of Togo and the Ivory Coast, as part of the African telephone system, PANAFTEL. This follows the decision of the African Development Bank (ADB) to grant a US$6.3 million loan representing 64% of the total cost of the project.

JUNE 2
The PNDC announces the adoption of a health policy based on primary health care. Under it, practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology are to be extended to individuals and families at a cost which the nation can afford in the spirit of self-reliance.

JUNE 4
The PNDC announces an amnesty to mark the third anniversary of the June 4 Revolution. Under it, certain categories of convicted prisoners are to serve shorter sentences while those sentenced to death for subversion during the Acheampong regime and still detained pending commital warrants, are to be released.

JUNE 9
The Cocoa Market Report, published by the London analysis, Gill and Duffus, notes that Ghana's cocoa industry has shown a remarkable improvement since the PNDC took over the administration of the country on December 31, 1981.

JUNE 11
The African Development Bank approves a US$10 million loan to Ghana for the rehabilitation of the Cocoa Products Factory at Tema.

JUNE 15
● Bicycles, worth a total of ₵1m, are being supplied by the Ghana Co-operative Bank to farmers. Farmers who are members of co-operative societies in the Northern and Upper Regions have already received their cycles.

JUNE 19
It is announced that all first-cycle schools in the country are to run only one-session classes to enable teachers and pupils to use their afternoons working on farms or engaging in non-formal educational programmes, including the organisation of literacy classes.

JUNE 22
The Christian Council of Ghana reiterates its support for the December 31 Revolution. Rev. Professor N.K. Dzobo, Chairman of the Council, tells a visiting delegation from the World Council of Churches that events taking place in Ghana represent an attempt to build a new way of life for the people and that the Church must continue to play a part in helping build a new scale of values.

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JULY 1
Ghana's second major hydroelectric project is inaugurated at Kpong, in the Eastern Region, increasing the country's hydropower capacity by some 6% to 1,072 Mw.

JULY 11
A 28,000 tonnes shipload of crude oil from Libya arrives at Tema — the first of 12 consignments totalling 360,000 tonnes to be delivered over six months under an agreement concluded between the two countries. It is estimated that the agreement saved Ghana US$10 million.

JULY 16
A three-year short-term rehabilitation programme for the economy is announced by the PNDC Finance and Economic Planning Secretary, Dr Kwesi Botchway. It provides mainly for the restructuring of manufacturing industries to make them profitable as well as viable, the introduction of progressive and modern methods in agriculture and the reorganisation of the import and export trade to improve efficiency and eliminate fraudulent practices.

JULY 23
● The number of officials serving in Ghana's diplomatic missions has been reduced by 110, or one third of the total, saving some ₵20 million a year.

★ ★ ★

AUGUST 2
An action programme for health is launched under which all newly-trained doctors who complete their housemanship are to serve in the Districts for at least one year.
● More than ₵30 million worth of drugs ordered by the PNDC Government under an agreement with the European Economic Community have begun to arrive in the country.

AUGUST 12
● The Ghana National Procurement Agency (GNPA) takes delivery of 6,000 lorry and car tyres which arrived in the country following conclusion of a trade-exchange agreement with Romania.

AUGUST 20
The farmers' cheque system, popularly known as the *Farmers' New Deal* is officially launched by the PNDC Chairman, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, at a ceremony attended by some 20,000 farmers at Tema-Ashanti. The new system replaces the 'chit system' which, Chairman Rawlings tells the meeting, made it possible to rob the farmers and the nation of millions of cedis.

AUGUST 23
The Government adopts new strategies for co-ordinating the activities of all health and health-related sectors in the country to ensure sound medical care for all.
● It is also announced that rural integrated health services are to be established throughout the country at the beginning of the next farming season to cater for the needs of farmers.
● A consignment of essential commodities worth ₵1.2 million is allocated to re-stock *People's Co-operative Shops* in rural areas to make the goods available to farmers.

AUGUST 25
It is announced that ₵3 million is to be spent in the current financial year on the rehabiliation and construction of feeder roads in the Upper Region.

AUGUST 28
The first phase of the Afife irrigation project, capable of producing 6,800 tonnes of rice annually, is inaugurated at an impressive ceremony, following its completion last July. The project constructed with Chinese technical aid, has involved reclaiming land which has yielded 3.81 metric tonnes of rice per hectare on a pilot plot. The second phase of the project covers the rehabiliation of dams abandonded since 1966, the reclamation of additional land and the construction of 10 hectares of fish ponds.

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SEPTEMBER 11
It is announced that agriculture is to become a compulsory subject in second cycle institutions.

SEPTEMBER 14
It is reported that 160 kilometres of neglected feeder roads linking major roads with food growing and fishing villages have been rehabilitated in the Northern Region since the Revolution.
● More than one million rural dwellers in five Regions — Ashanti, Volta, Central, Western and Eastern — are to be provided with good drinking water following the recently completed installation of 2,000 water pumps under the first phase of the joint Ghana-Federal Republic of Germany water project.

SEPTEMBER 17
The completed Sefwi-Wiawso Power Project is commissioned by the PNDC Chairman, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings. The project, financed jointly by the Volta River Authority and the World Bank, has involved extending the Akosombo grid over a distance of 63 kilometres to the Sefwi-Wiawso area of Asawinso in the Western Region where towns and villages within a 50-kilometre radius of Asawinso are to be supplied.

SEPTEMBER 20
President Samora Machel of Mozambique declares in Accra during a brief stop-over that Ghana's Revolution was not one in isolation because Mozambicans view the enemies of the December 31 Revolution as the enemies of Africa.

★ ★ ★

OCTOBER 5
It is reported that Ghana's mid-crop cocoa purchases are more than 100% up on the previous year, totalling to date nearly 5,000 tonnes as against last year's total of 2,164 tonnes. It is added that so far 180,000 tonnes have been moved to ports of which 95% has been shipped.
● The Prestea Oil Palm Plantation project takes delivery of £700,000 worth of equipmnent for the rehabilitation of the 4,460 hectare plantation.

OCTOBER 11
A virtually abandoned 5,000-acre state-owned oil palm plantation, which in recent years never realised more than ₵33,000 a year from the sale of the crop, came to life again this year with a harvest of 1,345 tons which brought C3.8 million. This followed the appointment by the PNDC of a new management committee.

OCTOBER 16
The gross monthly earnings of the State Transport Corporation (STC) have more than trebled from ₵2 million to ₵7 million since the workers became part of the management.

OCTOBER 20
Dr. Kwesi Botchway, the PNDC Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, announces that Ghana would pursue talks with the IMF and hopes to qualify for a standby credit and a loan to revive its shattered economy, but it was not prepared to accept "unreasonable conditions" imposed by the Fund.

OCTOBER 22
It is announced that the water system in the Kumasi area is to be expanded under a three-year programme to be carried out with British technical assistance at a cost of £3 million. When completed, the project will supply water to most of the villages around Kumasi.

OCTOBER 23
Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, arrives in Ghana for a three-day visit and declares that "Ghana will never be forgotten by the people of Africa because of the leadership position she occupies on the continent." He adds: "Both in heart and mind, I am a Ghanaian."

OCTOBER 30
Dr. Obed Asamoah, the PNDC Foreign Affairs Secretary, announces that Ghana's Investment Code is being reviewed to create a more equitable basis for foreign participation in the country's economy.

NOVEMBER 10
The PNDC approves the release from custody of 18 political detainees. The group is made up of two former Ministers, four former Deputy Ministers and 12 former Members of Parliament.

NOVEMBER 20
The Democratic Youth League of Ghana — a mass youth movement — is officially launched at a ceremony in Independence Square, Accra, by the Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings.

NOVEMBER 23
An attempt by a group of armed counter-revolutionaries to overthrow the PNDC Government is successfully crushed.

NOVEMBER 25
Hundreds of thousands of workers gather in and around Independence Square for a mammoth rally held to express solidarity with and support for the PNDC under Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings.

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DECEMER 2
The PNDC launches its decentralisation plan which aims at setting up a new local council administrative structure capable of responding to the needs of the people. It will be based on a three-tier system: Area/Town/Village Councils, District Councils and Regional Councils; with the PDCs expected to take full charge of the first tier.

DECEMBER 4
The National Youth Organisation Commission establishes 50 night schools in the Northern Region under a literacy campaign for the Region.

DECEMBER 9
The Ministry of Industries, Science and Technology embarks on the bulk importation of selected raw materials needed by various industries in the country. The measure is intended to conserve and maximise available foreign exchange and eliminate the danger of price manipulation by private importers.

DECEMBER 15
● The USSR grants Ghana a $10 million credit facility to meet the cost of technical assistance and equipment needed to complete a number of Soviet-financed projects abandoned after the 1966 coup.

DECEMBER 16
Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, the PNDC Chairman, makes a number of major policy statements on, among other subjects, decentralisation, the economy, the Recovery Programme and foreign relations, in a nationwide broadcast marking also the approaching first anniversary of the Revolution.
● The Ghana National Procurement Agency pays a ₵20 million dividend to the State Treasury.
● Twenty more Tata buses, to be operated in the Tema sub-district, are commissioned by the PNDC Secretary for Greater Accra, Mr. Amarkai Amarteifio.

DECEMBER 18
It is announced that the Government is to take delivery shortly of 180,000 tyres to ease the transportation problems in the country.

DECEMBER 30
A four-year programme for reconstruction and development is announced in a broadcast by the PNDC Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning. It provides for major reforms of the economic system to: eliminate local and foreign exploitation; increase the production of selected agricultural products and selected manufacturing industries; lower the rate of inflation; and improve the distribution of goods, services and incomes.

1983

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JANUARY 12
The African Development Bank approves a $10 million loan for the rehabilitation of the cocoa processing factories at Tema and Takoradi.

JANUARY 13
The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. Rawlings, emphasises that the Council will do all it can to complement the initiative of the people to ensure the creation of a just and prosperous society. He therefore calls on all Ghanaians to take advantage of opportunities provided by the decentralisation policy to give of their best and use their inherent creative potentials to improve their living standards.

JANUARY 14
The PNDC Secretary for Transport and Communications, Alhaji Mahama Iddrisu, discloses that the World Bank has released a $42m loan for the rehabilitation of the country's railway system.

JANUARY 15
The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. Rawlings, promises that in six years Ghana will be transformed if the people continue to try to prevent cheating in society.

JANUARY 24
Ghanaians repatriated from Nigeria begin to arrive back in the country.

JANUARY 25
● The Japanese Government presents agricultural items worth about $1.5m under a special grant to the Ghana Government with a promise to make more contributions to the nation's economic recovery programme.

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FEBRUARY 3
The Aboso Glass factory announces rehabilitation plans to enable the factory to resume production of 1.5m bottles a month.

FEBRUARY 11
The Government decides to build a hospital in each administrative district in addition to health centres, clinics and health posts that are to be opened to make the Primary Health Care Programme a real success.

FEBRUARY 18
The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. Rawlings, launches the second phase of the agricultural revolution at Gomoa Potsin in the Central Region.

FEBRUARY 23
The Ghana Seed Company plans to distribute a variety of high-yeilding seedlings to farmers in the country to boost food production during the major farming season.

FEBRUARY 24
The Chairman of the PNDC says it is the responsibility of every Ghanaian to contribute to the success of the ongoing Revolution by getting involved in the activities of the nation and that they must be disciplined and make sacrifices which in the end will be to their own benefit.

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MARCH 5
Fifteen oil companies from the USA, Britain, France, Canada, Brazil and Italy apply for concessions to undertake offshore oil prospecting in Ghana.

MARCH 8
A $9m million plant, one of the largest in West Africa, is installed at the Ghana Oil Palm Development Corporation plantation at Kwae near Kade in the Eastern Region. The mill will produce palm oil for both industrial and domestic consumption.
● Flt.-Lt. Rawlings advises all chiefs to endeavour to maintain their functional roles as truly traditional authorities and thereby retain the wisdom of the culture of their people. He observes that if some chiefs had not discarded this obligation Ghana would have had fewer economic and political problems.

MARCH 9
The World Bank is to provide an interest-free credit facility to the country's entire export sector, the ports and railways system and agriculture under a package financial assistance repayable over 50 years with a grace period of ten years.

MARCH 12
A consortium of banks in the country agree to raise ₵50 million for the Ghana Sugar Estates Ltd (GHASEL) because it considers the sugar industry economically viable. When the rehabilitation is completed, GHASEL will produce up to about 48,700 tonnes of sugar per annum.

MARCH 14
The Ghana Commercial Bank, the Agricultural Development Bank and other banks in the country have set aside ₵250m to support the PNDC National Mobilisation Programme. This programme centres around the PDC structure and embraces peasant and commercial farmers, the unemployed, the underemployed workers of the civil service and public corporations, craftsmen, voluntary organisations, students, the armed forces and the police. Additionally, one working day in a week will be set aside for every worker to do special community work.

MARCH 18
The Univeristy of Science and Technology (UST) in Kumasi, successfully extracts non-edible oil from the tree neem and castor seeds for the manufacture of soap.

MARCH 23
Launching the National Mosquito Control Programme at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Flt.-Lt. Rawlings affirms that the health of Ghanaians is of paramount importance to the Government of the PNDC because it is only healthy people who can carry out the national development programme.

MARCH 25
About one million more Ghanaians in six regions of the country have access to good drinking water following the completion of more wells. About 3,000 wells have been drilled in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Western, Central and Volta Regions.

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APRIL 4
The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. Rawlings, urges all Ghanaians abroad, including those in self-imposed exile, to return home to join the task of re-building the country.

APRIL 6-8
Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings reiterates that membership of the PDCs and WDCs is open to all persons of proven patriotism, integrity and democratic practice.

APRIL 29
The Government reaches an agreement with the Standard Chartered Bank Ltd. of the UK under which the bank will immediately provide $100 million to help finance an emergency import programme for agriculture and key industrial sectors.

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The jubilant Black Star players pose for the press with Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings and their newly won trophy

MAY 1
Ghana's Black Stars, four times African champions, win the Silver Jubilee Trophy of the Economic Community of Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

MAY 3
At the opening of a two-day seminar on the 1983 budget

at the Kwame Nkrumah Conference Centre, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings said that the budget has been designed to cure the country's ailing economy and set it firmly on the road to total recovery.

● The first post-budget flight of Ghana Airways to London and back with only 45 passengers yields about ₵2 million as against the pre-budget full board trip which fetched less than ₵1 million.

MAY 9

The Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN has approved a project of food crop seeds and agricultural hand tools worth $450,000 to help in the resettlement of Ghanaian returnees from Nigeria.

MAY 11

The French President's Special Adviser on African Affairs, Mr. Guy Penne, has said in Accra that his Government appreciated the efforts being made by the PNDC through the 1983 budget to resuscitate Ghana's economy.

MAY 19

Mr. Sotonis Mousouris, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations says he is positive that Ghana will find her feet if the people are properly mobilised.

MAY 25

The Central Regional Secretary, Mr. Ato Dadzie, hints at Government's plans to build maize silos estimated at ₵3m at Winneba.

MAY 27

The World Bank grants Ghana a loan of $13 million for the improvement of water supplies.

● The International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, gives Ghana $11 million credit to accelerate petroleum exploration.

★ ★ ★

JUNE 1

The British High Commissioner-designate to Ghana, Mr Kelvin Burns, expresses optimism that, with the present economic policy of the PNDC, Ghana will come out of her difficulties.

JUNE 8

Two financial institutions give more than ₵10m in loans to farmers in Frafra Traditional Area for production of food crops.

● Japan presents $2.5m worth of road building equipment to the Ghana Government.

JUNE 13

A ₵3 million water project is commissioned at Maase in the Offinso District of the Ashanti Region by the PNDC Secretary for Rural Development and Co-operatives, Mr. Kofi Acquaah-Harrison.

JUNE 18

A traditional healer of Agona Nyakrom in the Central Region discovers a cure for leprosy in which patients show signs of recovery in the second month of treatment.

JUNE 28

The ECOWAS Fund gives Ghana a $880,000 loan to embark on a microwave transmission link with the Republic of Upper Volta.

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JULY 7

The people of Atebubu in the Brong Ahafo Region decide to self-finance a project involving the damming of the River Pra to provide good drinking water.

JULY 13

The Subri Pulp and Paper Company embarks on a pilot scheme under which 1,000 hectares of paper wood will be planted every year for the next five years.

JULY 14

● The Government and the people of Cuba donate one and a half tonnes of assorted drugs to the people of Ghana.

JULY 27

The first three-week National Defence Committee course for more than 1,000 cadres ends with a call on the participants to go to the people and help improve upon their way of living.

JULY 28

The Ghana Co-operative Bank Ltd. takes delivery of agricultural imports worth ₵2.8m for 58 co-operative farmers' societies in the Northern Region. The inputs include seeds, fuel and fertilizers.

AUGUST 2

The Chairman of the PNDC tells civil servants that in their zeal to get things done, they should not be afraid to use methods more radical than those that exist today. He observes that emphasis on time-worn procedures, precedents and 'proper' channels in the past had led to a blunting of imagination and initiative and this led to the situation in which the concept of a 'good' civil servant in the past was one who cautiously followed the discreet and often cumbersome procedures laid down by his predecessors.

AUGUST 4

An edition of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) bulletin names Ghana as one of the nine countries in the Third World with the greatest potential for hydrocarbon extraction. The others are Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, the Ivory Coast Sudan, Somalia and India.

AUGUST 5

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approves a $377 million to Ghana. Two hundred and fifty million dollars of this amount is to be drawn over the next 12 months as a stand-by agreement. The remaining $127m will be available immediately to compensate for shortfalls in Ghana's 1982 exports.

AUGUST 9

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the World Bank are jointly working out a new three-year recovery plan to help raise the present level of production in certain sectors of the nation's economy. The plan which takes off next year is also aimed at alleviating the foreign exchange shortages and constraints facing Ghana.

AUGUST 10

The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, repeats in Cotonou, Benin, that his Government is committed to a patriotic and nationalistic course and is prepared to pursue its own path of development.

AUGUST 17

Construction work starts on a $25 million microwave telecommunications system to link Accra with Bolgatanga and other major towns in northern Ghana.

AUGUST 20

Volunteers from the African Youth Brigade begin rehabilitating the Aflao end of the international road which links Ghana to her eastern neighbours.

★ ★ ★

SEPTEMBER 1

A member of the PNDC, Mr. Ebo Tawiah, asks Ghanaians to continue to strive for perfection and show positive and solid gains in all their undertakings. He stresses that a determined people can always translate their wishes and aspirations into a success for the benefit and good of the broad masses of the people.

● The Central Hospital in Koforidua, Eastern Region, starts preparing its own drugs to reduce its dependence on the central government's drug supply.

SEPTEMBER 2

Dr. Kofi Nyidevu Awoonor, Ghana's ambassador to Brazil, has said that all that the Ghanaian Revolution sought to do was to form "a really democratic government based on popular mass participation to replace the system dominated by the minority elite and the wealthy politicians".

SEPTEMBER 7

The Government sets up a Ghana National Petroleum Corporation to undertake the exploration, development, production and disposal of petroleum products on a commercial basis.

SEPTEMBER 8

The West Dagomba Council, with the assistance of the United States Government, launches a programme to improve existing facilities in the district's slum areas with the aim of upgrading them into model settlements.

SEPTEMBER 14

The Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, Mr. Frederick Livingston, says Canada is to increase by threefold her economic assistance in various fields of development in support of the PNDC's Economic Recovery Programme.

SEPTEMBER 17

The Cape Coast branch of the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) grants loans totalling ₵8,886,750 to various fishermen, farmers' groups and individuals for the promotion and development of their businesses during the year.

SEPTEMBER 19

The National Investment Bank sponsors a group of six small- and medium-scale industrialists on a sales mission to the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. The potential exporters are drawn from the ceramics, wood-based, agro-based and handicrafts sectors.

SEPTEMBER 23

The Tema-Based Crocodile Matchets Ltd. starts producing 450,000 matchets on contract for the European Economic Community (EEC) to be supplied as a form of assistance to the National Mobilisation Committee and the National Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives.

SEPTEMBER 28

The Board of Petro-Canada International Assistance Corportion (PCIAC) approves a new oil and gas exploration project for Ghana. The project financed from a Canadian Government grant, involves the drilling of two wells at a cost of approximately $23 million.

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OCTOBER 1

The German Democratic Republic donates $3.5 million worth of road building equipment to Ghana to help in the country's feeder road rehabilitation programme.

OCTOBER 3

A statement from the Government discloses that it is considering the establishment of a National Research Council which will be a link between the Government, research institutions, the universities and the public.

OCTOBER 5

The Government and Messrs. Construction Pioneers (CP), a West German firm, sign a ₵543 million contract for the reconstruction of the Daboase Junction-Takoradi road which forms part of the Trans West-African Highway.

OCTOBER 7

The Government opens discussions with international financial institutions to enable it to finance the reactivation of Konongo Gold Mines.

OCTOBER 12

The people in the Ketu District of the Volta Region commence the building of a health Centre through communal labour and voluntary contributions. The first phase of the project covers an administration block and out-patients department. The next phase will involve the construction of a maternity block, staff quarters and a mortuary.

OCTOBER 18

The Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) successfully completes research into the use of cocoa husks for the manufacture of fertilizer. The husks can also be used as a substitute for, or with, maize as the main ingredient for the preparation of animal feed.

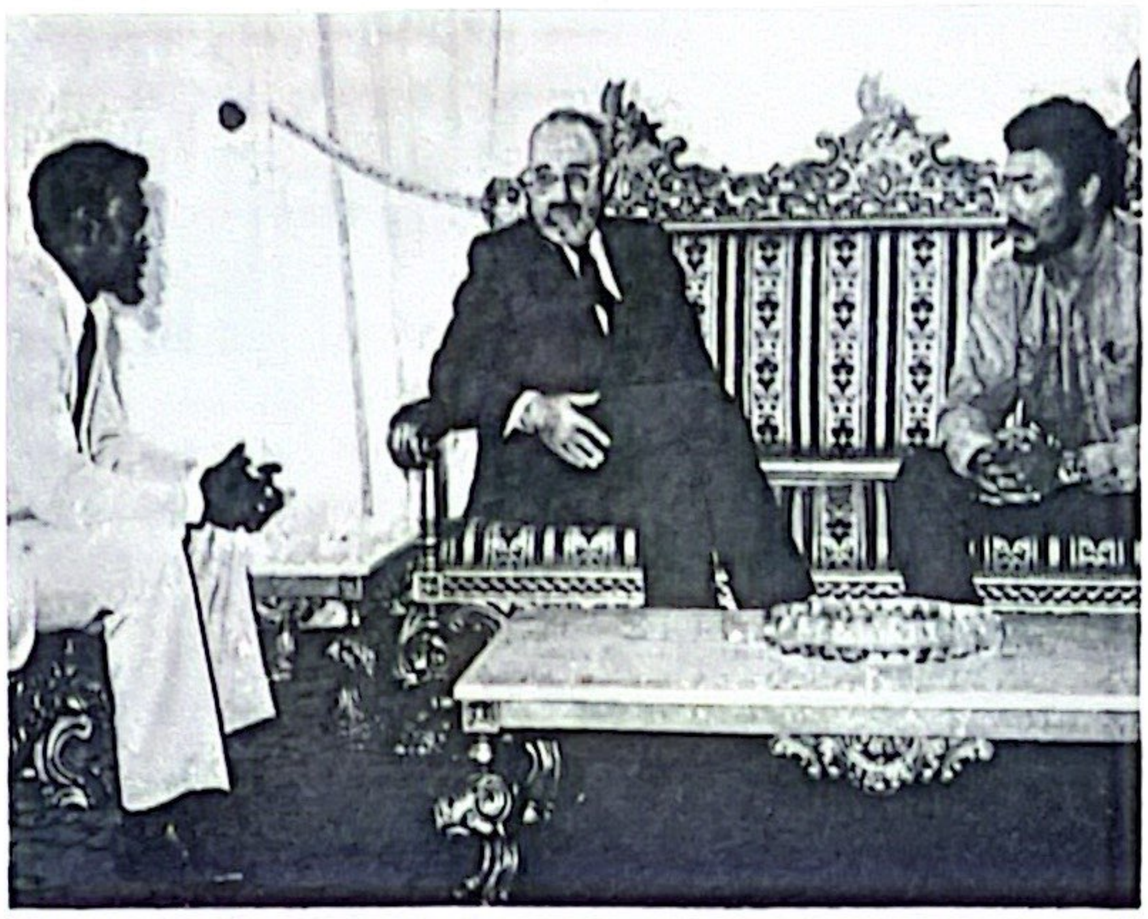
● Ghana and Yugoslavia sign a $3 million contract in Belgrade under which Yugoslavia will supply Ghana with agricultural equipment which will include tractors, disc harrows and fertilizer spreaders.

OCTOBER 19

The PNDC Secretary for Roads and Highways, Mr. E.O. Donkor, says 59 old bridges, some of which were burnt by recent bush fires, will be rebuilt as Bailey bridges. Work on them will start early next year at an estimated cost of ₵43 million.

OCTOBER 25

The British High Commissioner to Ghana, Mr Kelvin Burns, declares that his Government recognises the hope and opportunity created in the country by the PNDC through its economic policies.



Mr. Edgard Pisani, EEC Commissioner for Development and Relations with the Third World, in discussion with Flt.-Lt. Rawlings and Dr. Kwesi Botchway

OCTOBER 27

The French Ambassador to Ghana, Mr. Patrick O'Comesse, expresses optimism about the success of the November (1983) Consultative Group meeting on Ghana being hosted by the World Bank in Paris, France. He points out that the PNDC's economic policies have restored the confidence of donor countries and therefore deserve further attention.

OCTOBER 28

It is announced that Ghana has received a total of $228.4 million worth of aid from the European Economic Community (EEC) since 1976. Part of the amount has been spent on the Kpong hydroelectric project, the construction of the Elubo-Mpataba road and on power inter-connection between Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

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NOVEMBER 1

The PNDC Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Obed Asamoah, discloses that the United Nations General Assembly is expected to discuss relief and economic assistance, worth $190 million to Ghana. The assistance is to help offset the economic imbalance created by the repatriation of Ghanaians from Nigeria and to also cater for their settlement.

- A four-man European Economic Community (EEC) delegation, led by Mr. Edgard Pisani, EEC Commissioner for the Development and Relations with Third World Countries, arrives in Accra to hold a series of discussions with the Government on how best the Community can assist Ghana.
- Two and a half thousand tonnes of wheat, a gift from the Spanish Government, worth $600,000, arrives at Tema harbour.

NOVEMBER 3

The Government grants a joint Ghanaian/British private company licence to prospect for alluvial gold at Akim Apinaman in the Akim Abuakwa Traditional Area.

NOVEMBER 9

The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, formally opens the new Nsawam-Accra road to traffic.

NOVEMBER 23/24

The donor countries and institutions which constitute the Consultative Group for Ghana meet, for the first time in 13 years, in Paris under the auspices of the World Bank. The group considers the steps that Ghana has taken, and which the country plans to take, towards economic recovery. In recognition of the great efforts taken by the country towards this end, a communique issued at the end of the Conference, "warmly welcomes the courageous and far-reaching steps taken by the (Ghana) Government to reverse the economic deterioration which has persisted over the last decade."

NOVEMBER 30

The Chairman of the PNDC calls for the adoption of a common emblem or colour on the flags of all OAU member states as a symbol of concrete unity that will inspire deeper political and economic interaction among them.

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DECEMBER 2

The President of the World Bank, Mr. A.W. Clausen, says that from what he has seen and heard during his visit to Ghana, there are indications that the PNDC Government is on the right path towards economic recovery.

DECEMBER 3

The Ministry of Health embarks on a programme of manufacturing simple drugs and infusions in hospitals which have adequate facilities for the purpose.

DECEMBER 6

The Upper West's regional branch of the Ghana Fire Service begin instructing farmers in the area about fire-fighting methods including the cultivation of legumes around farms to serve as natural fire belts.

- The Chemistry Division of the Industrial Research Institute (IRI) manufactures a prototype bio-gas plant using cow-dung as a source of energy for cooking and other domestic purposes, especially suited to use in the rural areas.

DECEMBER 7

The Chairman of the PNDC, Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings reminds Ghanaians that aid and pledges from foreign countries and financial institutions to help the country solve her present economic problems will be valueless if Ghanaians have no solid moral and spiritual standing.

DECEMBER 9

The Chemistry Division of the Industrial Research Institute extracts aluminium sulphate (Alum) from local bauxite for use by the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation for the purification of water. The local production of aluminium sulphate will save the foreign currency needed to pay for an estimated 8,000 tonnes of alum annually.

DECEMBER 12

Ghana and Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation sign a $23m agreement for the exploration of oil in the Tano Basin in the Western Region.

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